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THE SPHERE

Vol. CLXXXVII
No. 2440
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE GRAPHIC
OCTOBER 26 1946

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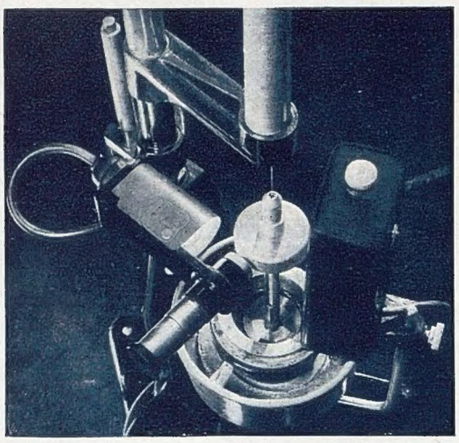

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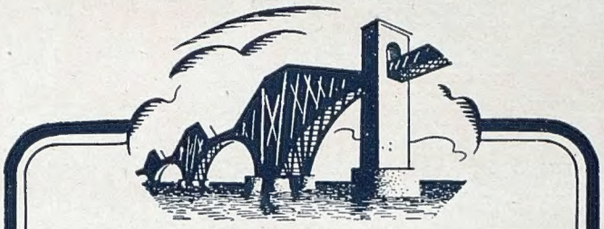

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Volume CLXXXVII No. 2440 The SPHERE, London, October 26, 1946

THE SPHERE
With which is incorporated "THE GRAPHIC"
The Empire's Illustrated Weekly

THE LAST PARADE AT THE R.M.C., SANDHURST—THE KING'S COLOUR AND THE REGIMENTAL COLOUR ARE BROUGHT INTO THE MEMORIAL CHAPEL FOR LAYING-UP AND SAFE KEEPING: The closing episode in the history of the Royal Military College, which is to be superseded by a new Academy

The Royal Military College, Sandhurst, founded in 1799 in the era of the Napoleonic Wars, ceased to exist on October 17, when its last company of officer-cadets was officially passed out. Afterwards the Colours of the College, presented by the Duke of Connaught in 1933, were laid up for ever at an official ceremony in the Memorial Chapel, "silent witnesses to old and well-tried traditions." When the Colour Party reached the chancel steps, Lieut.-Colonel Sir William Makins, Welsh Guards, received the Colours and then marched with them to the altar rails, where they were taken over by the chaplain. The College buildings at Sandhurst will be closed until January 3, 1947, when the first term of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, begins. The new Academy will combine the pre-war functions of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst

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A LONDON NEWSLETTER

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

A Dubious "Yes."—France has her new Constitution by a narrow majority. As many voters abstained from voting as voted against the proposal. It is abundantly clear that if all had voted, the Constitution proposal would once more have been turned down. The cause of abstention, moreover, was often enough irrelevant to the issue, due to trivial or economic discontents or to hatred and suspicion of French politicians and party strategists. It is clear, too, that De Gaulle's influence was much more widely and strongly felt than any prophet anticipated, albeit his last-minute intervention seems to have damaged the prospects of the M.R.P. at the elections for the Assembly. In short, the new Constitution comes in to a general shaking of heads. A bare majority found it just a little less intolerable than another Provisional Government of Cabal-and-Constitution-makers. It is no good augury for its survival. General de Gaulle believes that it may early lead to anarchy or dictatorship. It is a little better than the May Constitution, which dangerously subordinated President, Senate and Judiciary. But in the view of De Gaulle and of nearly half the nation, it is not nearly good enough. And Paris itself rejected it. And now at once comes the election for the National Assembly, which will sit for five years, ushering in the era of the Fourth Republic. How long will it last? It was born on a cloudless day which failed to evoke even a gleam of enthusiasm. There is this to be said in optimism: If the condition of French politics—with its everlasting permutations of party caucuses and its hideous vendettas—yet admits the possibility, the voters on November 10 may take more interest in building a decent Assembly than in building a secure Constitution. It is still in the power of the new Assembly to revise and improve the Constitution.

"Tot Homines . . ."—My caption is trite and true enough. But there are times when I feel that British opinion is broadly unanimous. But I am often wrong. Take the Nuremberg verdicts and the last end of the convicted criminals. Letters to the responsible Press, those invaluable "Gallup-polls," revealed to my astonishment an unexpected "minority report" in England, which condemns not only the procedure but the severity of the sentences on the findings and verdicts. Many people regard the executions of the military chiefs as judicial murder, and add, as a rider, the argument that henceforth in no country would a soldier accept a high command in war for fear of death by hanging, if his country were vanquished. These opinions quite clearly are honestly held, and are entitled, as are all honest opinions, to respect. None the less, they surprise me. For Goering was necessarily included in the list of "judicial murders," with the same excuse: that he was a serving soldier under the orders of a supreme commander whose policy, howsoever inhuman and outrageous, must be obeyed to the letter and, so obeyed, afforded absolute protection to the agent. By those arguments we come full circle. The whole principle of the Trial is thus negatived and denied. Granted the principle, it is truly remarkable that, in all the circumstances, the fairness and impartiality of the court proceedings could be questioned. If the principle be rejected, the responsibility of the individual to adhere to the accepted moral code (call it his duty to God, to his neighbour, to his own conscience) is eliminated for ever. And then where are we? What remains of civilisation? We are back to the world of Brutes—and farther back still. For even brute-beasts protect their own young. Judicial murder or calm, impartial justice, the sentences have been carried out; and to a majority of humanity the world we live in smells a little less foul.

A FOCAL-POINT OF EMPIRE: This is the new site for the Colonial Office, which is moving from its dowdy Whitehall-Downing Street corner after seventy-one years. The new building is to go up on the site of the old Westminster Hospital now occupied by the Y.M.C.A. Timber from the Colonies is to be employed in its construction, and it will stand in an impressive position facing the Abbey in the heart of the Empire. During the change-over the Colonial Office is to be accommodated in Church House, Westminster

"Let's Be Friends."—Such was the plea of Davidov, Soviet commentator, broadcasting in English from Moscow last week. And every Englishman echoes, wholeheartedly if ungrammatically, "LET 'S." There is nothing on earth we should desire more, nothing which could do more good to this sad and sorry world. But there are so many snags still lying along the path that our heartfelt "LET 'S" sounds more like a cynical "RATS." If Davidov's voice were the voice of Russia? Myself, I believe it may well be the voice of millions of muzzled Russians. But when on the same day, on the same air, at the council table or from an official box, another voice, in quite another tone, spits out the bitterest, foulest, falsest slanders on the British race, its national policy, aims, leaders, integrity and decency, what is an average Englishman to think? What peace, so long as the vileness of that Jezebel, called propaganda, continues? What hopes for friendship and understanding, so long as every offer of the right hand of fellowship is countered and contradicted by a left-handed stab in the back? Yet I believe that Davidov's *is* the voice of Russia. How then did he escape from prison to whisper to the world the heart-cry of his fellow-prisoners? Of course, one can exaggerate the political *consciousness* (let alone enthusiasm) of the millions of many races, more or less cultured, to-day. We in England are more concerned with filling our bellies and building roofs over our heads than with the implications of the atom bomb. And so, no doubt, and more so, it is in Russia. But peace is not "politics" to-day. It is the basis of everything small or big. The very pent-houses we are trying to erect in our small backyards can be propped up only on world security and a prospect of half-a-century of peace.

Blackpool Footnote.—I have thought much about the proceedings of that Conservative conference at Blackpool. I was never a Conservative, but I wish well to any party which can organise and rally a live, sincere and constructive opposition capable of offering an alternative Government and a go-ahead, well-conceived and documented policy whenever a majority of the nation suffers the inevitable reaction from the theories of State Socialism, wholesale nationalisation and so forth. I found that the Blackpool Conference left the party still in the hands of the Old Guard. The voices of the younger leaders were drowned by the cheers that greeted the repetitive expressions of adherence to old shibboleths, of the new-coined, meaningless, fine phrases, the undying nostalgia for Stockbrokershire and all its works and for the ancient economic theories of Empire. When Disraeli thrashed Gladstone and vice versa, in days of piping peace, a fine phrase could spell a political triumph. Victorian and Edwardian statesmen can never forget "the great days" of Parliament, when nothing happened to interfere with the leisurely, dignified game of party chess. There is nothing of leisure or dignity in Parliament to-day, and formulæ and fine phrases are worse than nothing. Only brass-tacks interest the electorate. What is the urge which compels an elder statesman to hang on too long in the dog-fight? Place and power are not what they were. A premier is no more a figure in the public eye to-day than any other public servant, unless he possess an outstanding personal character. Our great men are almost always thrown up in times of danger—Chatham, Pitt, Lloyd George, Churchill. The statesmen of peace are mostly notorious for muddling us into wars and dangers.

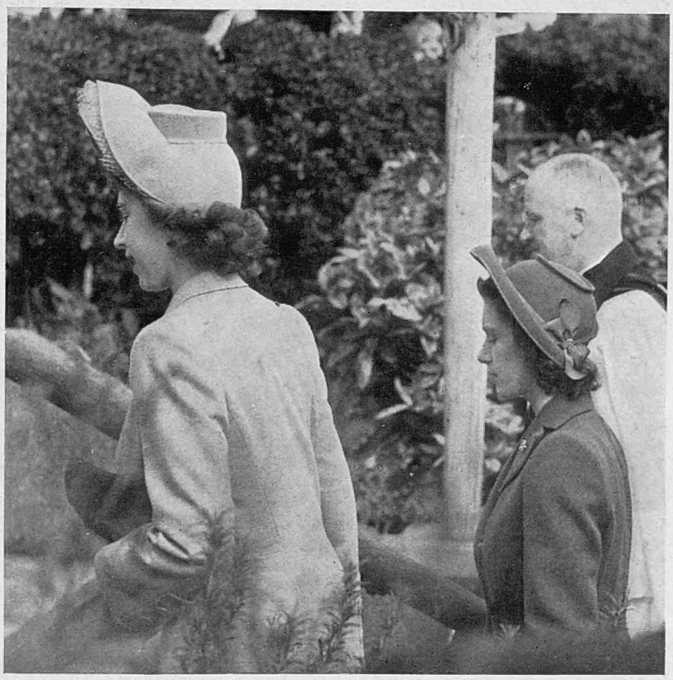
. . . And Mr. Churchill.—Mr. Churchill occupies one of the highest niches in our national shrine. He cannot rise higher. He has passed his "climacteric." Scrapping in the dingy dog-fight of party politics to-day cannot further enhance, must gradually tarnish, his laurels. Nothing tarnished them more than two of his recent "fine phrases"—that fatal "Gestapo" touch and that equally deplorable but irresistible epigram concerning those who sing "Land of Hope and Glory" and those who sing "The Red Flag." The phrases meant nothing at all but trouble for Conservatism—a terrible, epigrammatic, "double-barrelled" petard. What is the urge which compels our national heroes to stage comebacks? Why did Wellington drag his glory in the mud during thirty years of politics after Waterloo? Why did Lloyd George set aside his polished shield, and open gaping joints in his harness, to retain the chances of place and power? Why is it that neither Churchill, Wellington nor Lloyd George have seen the essential fitness of retirement at the apex of their glory and the climacteric of their powers? The whole value to the nation of their glory lies, and has always lain, in their being thenceforward elder statesmen and private mentors, outside party, at the disposal of their Sovereigns, the Government of the day, of all and sundry who need impartial advice in the nation's behalf.

We Pay for Our Knowledge.—No doubt at all, question-time in the House is often a recreational game of cup-and-ball, thrust-and-parry, between party protagonists. We do not perhaps chuckle as loudly as those who *hear* the smart retorts and the exchange of personalities. Jests and spoken invective notoriously lose flavour when recorded in cold print. They seem merely school-boyish to those who merely read—and pay. Question after question which seems nearly to affect the life and pocket of the citizen is raised, argued, brushed aside with a smart epigram—and *dropped* like a hot potato. So it was when Mr. de la Bere raised the question of the use, the scope and the cost of the Central Office of Information, for whose posters and redundant directives and news snippets (often of doubtful taste or utility) we pay through the nose. The question afforded the chance of the usual amusing exchange of personalities between Churchill and Morrison before the House went on to "serious" business. Before it was dropped, Mr. Morrison volunteered the statement that it was necessary to modern democratic government that the public should have (and pay for) the means of *knowing what is happening*. I think the taxpayer would agree to that and would willingly pay for it. What, in fact, he pays for is such crumbs of knowledge as the Government thinks it good for him to have. And for those crumbs, too often shovelled out in clumsy, lop-sided wooden spoons, we do indeed pay through the nose. And one day we shall pay higher still for things which the Government is doing and planning daily, at home and overseas, of which we hear nothing at all.

THE OLD STAGER

THE KING AND QUEEN AT ST. PAUL'S : Their Majesties leaving the Cathedral after attending a service of intercession for the United Nations Organisation. In company with a vast congregation, they heard the Archbishop of Canterbury deliver a stirring call for world brotherhood and for a reaffirmation of the principles of the Atlantic Charter. The service, which was broadcast, was also attended by Mr. Attlee and many members of the Government and of the Opposition

THE ROYAL FAMILY— AND THE CHURCH



THE PRINCESSES VISIT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, EASTBOURNE : Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret leaving after attending Divine service last Sunday morning. They had been staying at nearby Compton Place as the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire

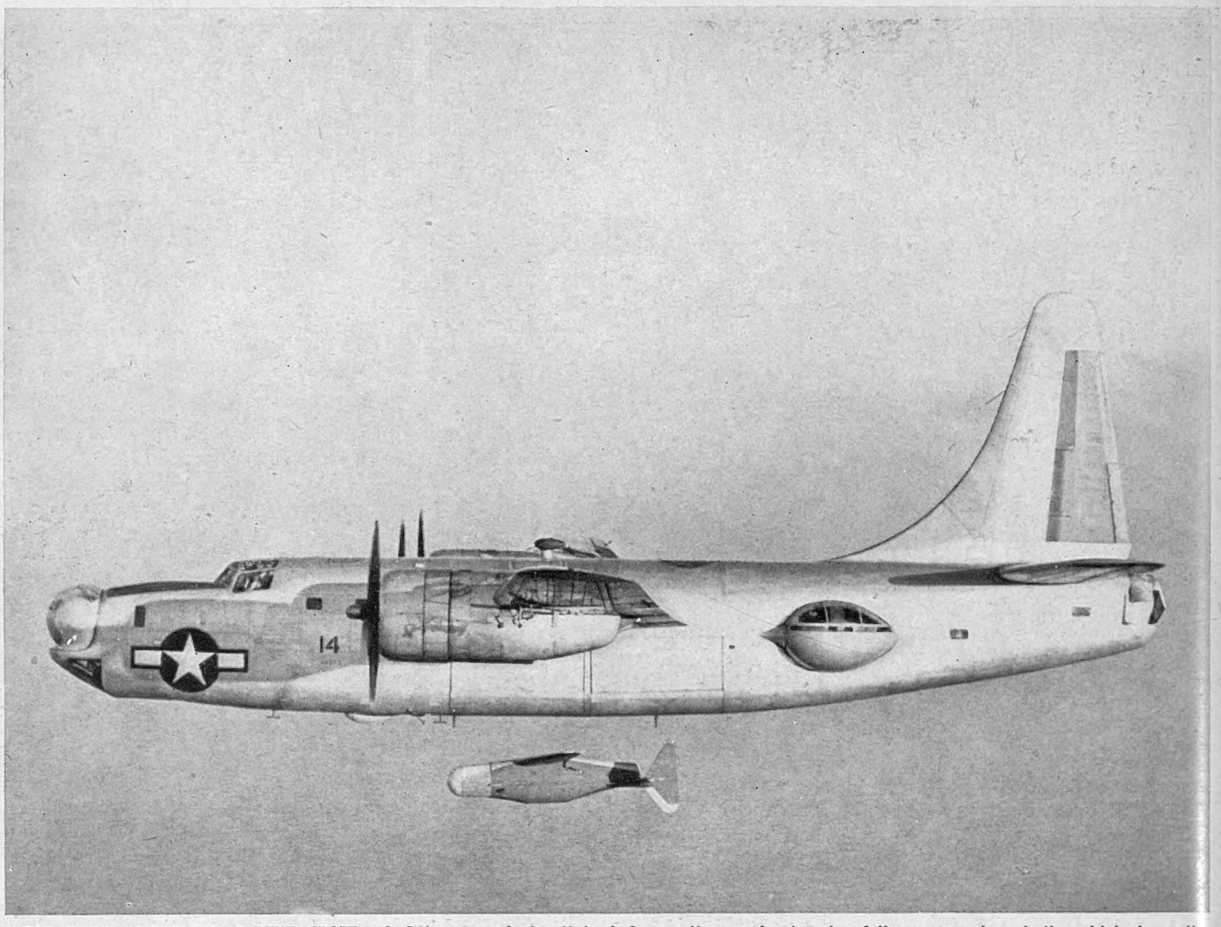
Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret spent a long week-end as the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Compton Place, Eastbourne. Last Saturday they watched a display of fireworks in the grounds of Compton Place, 450 boys of Eastbourne College and estate workers also being among the spectators, while on Sunday they attended Divine service at All Saints', members of the College being prominent in the congregation. After the service they walked slowly back to their motor-car to give the College boys an opportunity of taking photographs. Meanwhile, at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, the King and Queen, accompanied by the Earl of Athlone, Princess Alice, and the Marquess of Cambridge, were present at the United Nations service which was broadcast to the Empire. The service ended with a substituted verse of the National Anthem, replacing the lines beginning "O Lord our God arise"

THE SILVER ALTAR PLATE, SUBSCRIBED FOR BY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AS A GIFT TO THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER, WHICH WAS DEDICATED BY THE KING IN THE CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY LAST TUESDAY : At the service the chapel was inaugurated as the official chapel of the Order. The plate consists of an arms dish, bearing the cross of the Order, an altar cross, two altar candlesticks, two vases, and two standard candlesticks. They were to have been presented at a service arranged for October 19, 1939. This was postponed owing to the war, throughout which they were used in a chapel of the Cathedral of St. John, New York. The silver was brought back to England by Lord Halifax when he relinquished his duties as Ambassador in Washington

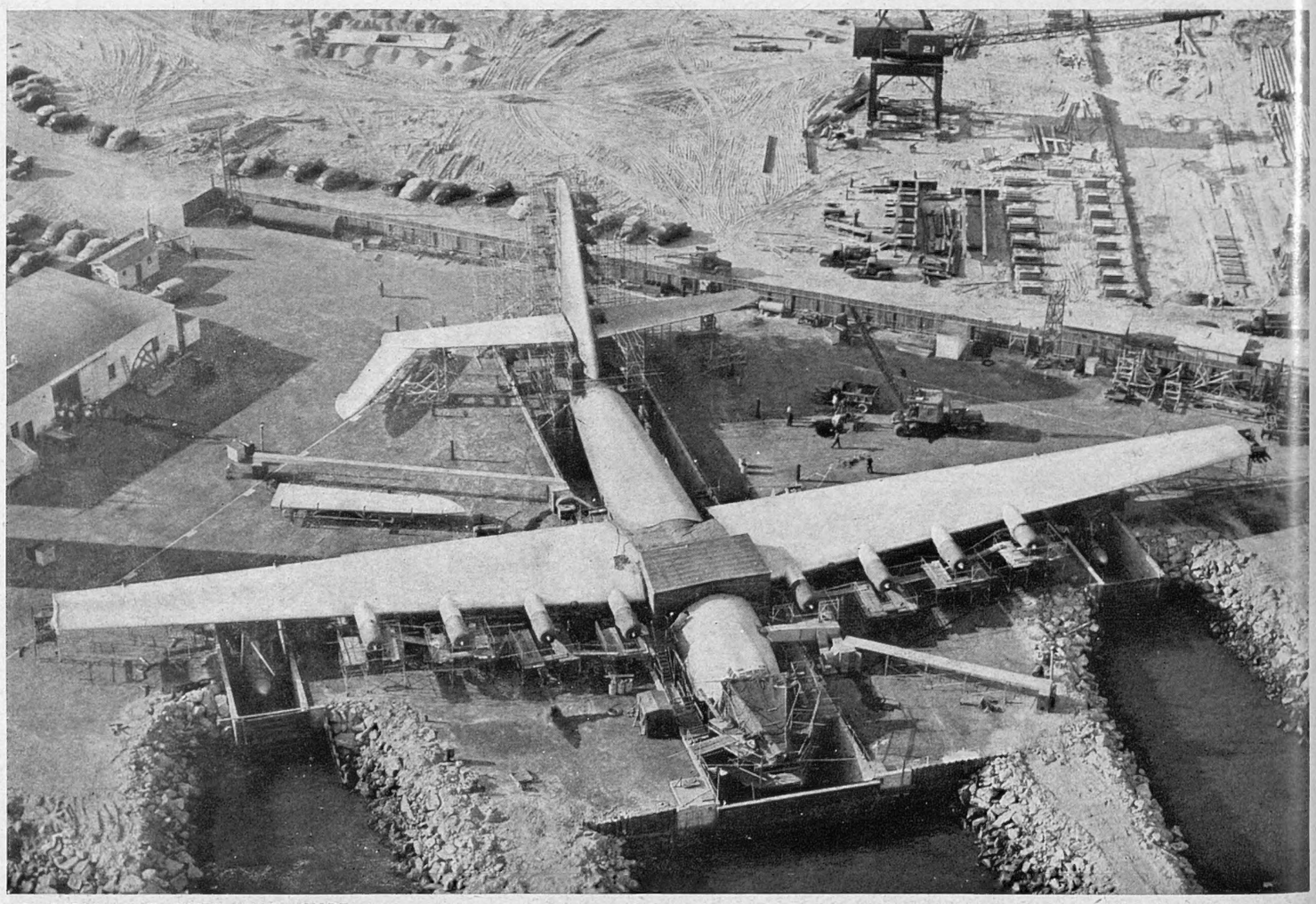
"THE BAT" MAKES ITS DEBUT

The Radar-Guided Bomb Used by the U.S. Navy

The United States Navy has just released news of "the Bat," an automatic missile which is guided from the parent aircraft right on to the target. As a weapon it is 100 per cent. efficient, both by day and night, and it would constitute a serious menace to surface ships if released in large numbers by attacking aircraft, particularly under cover of night. A modified form of "the Bat" was used during the war for tracking down submarines lying just beneath the surface. Used in conjunction with radar "the Bat" could reach any target area chosen by the pilot despite fog or darkness. The existing antidote to "the Bat" would probably be an anti-aircraft barrage of shells equipped with the same radio fuse which is employed in "the Bat" itself. This fuse comes into operation the moment one metal object in the sky nears another, and it is possible that the two weapons might cancel each other out



"THE BAT" LEAVES ITS PARENT CRAFT: A Privateer of the United States Navy releasing its fully automatic missile which is radio-directed to its target. In fog or under cover of darkness, the bomb-aimer uses radar to pin-point his target, and by means of the radar screen directing the missile is no more difficult than in daylight. Changes of course can be made at any given moment. On reaching the target area a radio fuse within the bomb causes sympathetic detonation



CALIFORNIA'S COLOSSUS TAKES SHAPE—THE "HERCULES" ALMOST READY FOR FLIGHT: The wings and fuselage and tail of the world's largest flying-boat joined together in the graving dock at Long Beach. The Clipper, which has been built by the Hughes Aircraft Company at Culver City, is now almost ready for taxi-ing tests, but the initial flight will not take place until next year. Mr. Howard Hughes, the builder, originally had a contract from the United States Government for three of these machines, and they were to cost a total of £4,000,000 for the three. The "Hercules" alone has already cost just under £5,000,000, and some time ago the U.S. Government saw fit to cancel its order for the other two. Some idea of the size of the "Hercules" may be gathered from the fact that the area of the tail is three times the area of a Liberator's wing. The eight Pratt and Whitney Wasp engines will provide 28,000 h.p. for the take-off. Mr. Howard Hughes, builder of the "Hercules" and himself a keen pilot, is now recovering from a serious air accident

BOTTICELLI'S "THREE MIRACLES OF ST. ZENOBIUS" BEFORE ITS CLEANING AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE OVER-PAINTING: The picture, acquired from the Abdy Collection in 1911 for the Metropolitan Museum, New York, was sent a short while ago to a firm of art cleaners, who stated that the right-hand figure in front of the coffin was an over-painting. The over-painting was removed to reveal the skeletons seen in the detail reproduced at the foot of this page. It will be noted that the line of the coffin in the upper picture is clearly shown behind the over-painted figure, a fact which may give rise to some controversy

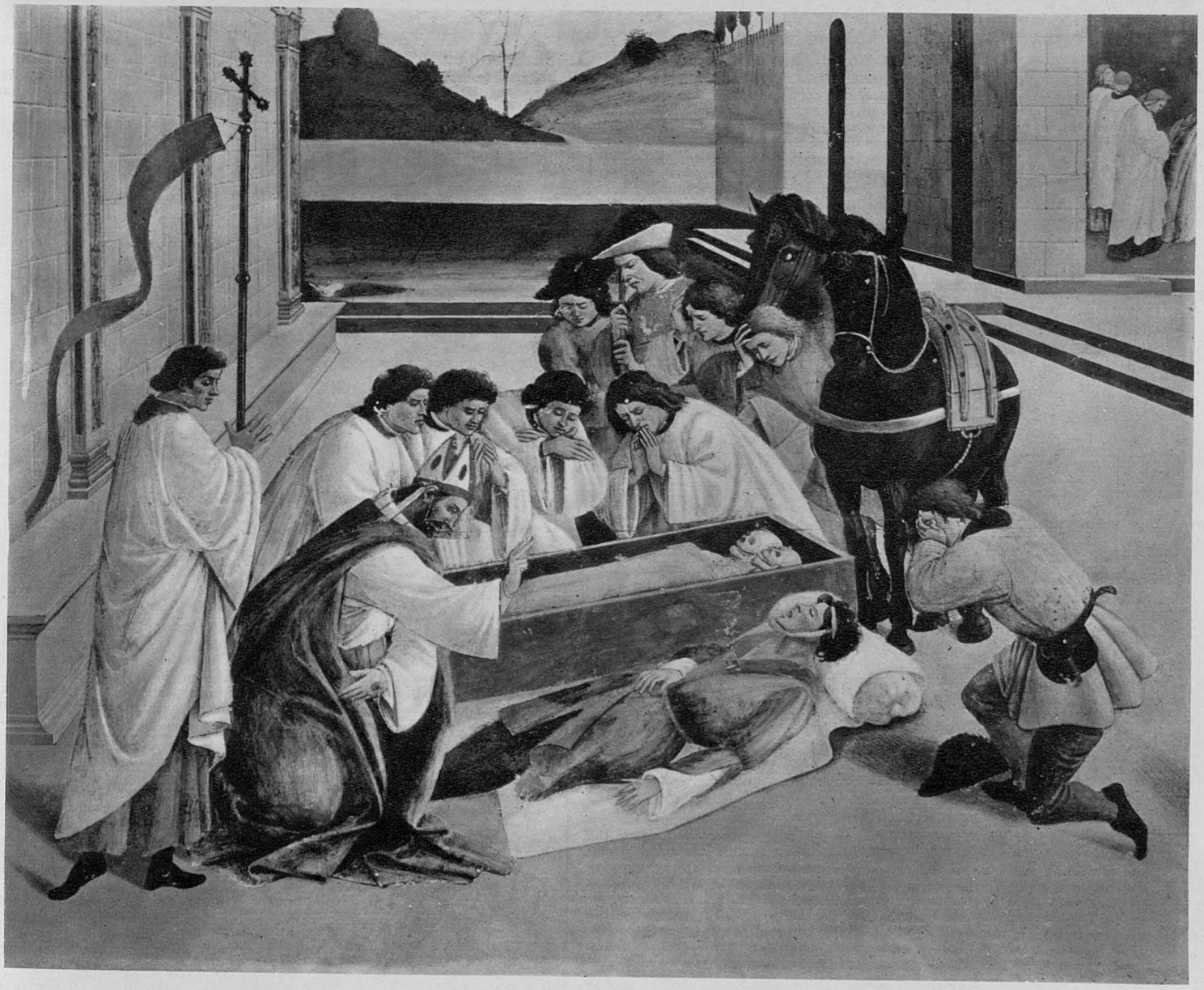
AN ART DISCOVERY IN NEW YORK

The Botticelli Zenobius will Set the Critics Thinking

The dramatic discovery at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, that the Botticelli painting *Three Miracles of St. Zenobius* bore a more modern over-painting concealing a pair of skeletons was made recently when the picture was sent for cleaning. In itself the discovery is interesting enough; but it arouses also questions of additional interest, and may give rise to puzzlement in the absence of more detailed information from New York.

A cursory examination of the upper canvas (the picture as it was before cleaning) shows that the kneeling figure in front of the coffin only partially conceals the line of the coffin. Surely this should have been an indication long ago that the kneeling figure was superimposed at a date later than the original painting? Why then was the discovery not made before? After all, tens of thousands of people have seen the picture and have examined it closely.

It is possible, of course, that the camera reveals the line of the coffin through the use of a modern lens, but the point should certainly be clarified, particularly in view of the fact that so many strange stories are now circulating in the world of art, with false Vermeers deluding the art critics of two hemispheres.

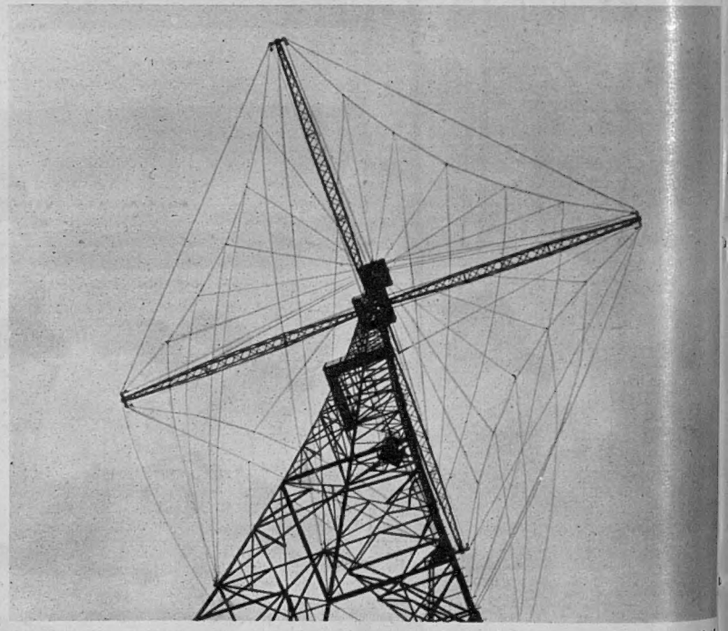


AMERICA'S HURRICANE PATROL IN ACTION OFF THE FLORIDA COAST—A BLACK WIDOW OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE TURNING TOWARDS AN ADVANCING STORM IN ORDER TO CHART ITS PROGRESS AND GIVE WARNING OF ITS COURSE : Seven machines are now operating on this patrol, and during the hurricane season, which persists through the autumn, their radar apparatus will give ample warning before the storms hit the mainland. The radar equipment, which is housed in the nose of the plane and which was used during the war years for spotting enemy bombers in night operations, records the storm in the form of a bright moving patch on the cathode-ray tube. The navigator is able to report its range, course-angle and speed, and in a matter of seconds the vital data is wirelessed to the shore. As a recorder of weather radar has proved effective up to distances of 200 miles when tried out off the Indian coast near Bombay, and it is probable that it is no less effective off the coast of Florida, the main consideration being a warm climate. In the past the menace of the hurricanes has largely lain in their very unexpectedness as they sweep up the coast from Key West

AMERICA'S HURRICANE AND ICE PATROLS

The Decca System of Aerial Navigation

THE WORK OF THE ATLANTIC ICE PATROL : United States sailors examining the grotesque formation of an iceberg which has calved from a Greenland glacier and is drifting south across the shipping routes. During the spring, summer and autumn of 1946, the ice patrol has been restored to its full pre-war status after a lapse of six years, and aeroplanes and coastguard cutters now co-operate in reporting the positions of the bergs to all shipping on the North Atlantic. In addition, members of the crews of the coastguard cutters dynamite the bergs to reduce their bulk, and thus hasten disintegration



THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYPERBOLIC OR LATTICE NAVIGATION : An angle view of the 325-ft. mast used under the Decca system, which is now being widely developed in order to provide ships and aircraft with a swift and simple system of plotting their exact positions. The Decca system, evolved by British scientists, and much improved during the war, is claimed to be accurate to a few yards even when operating over distances of 300 miles

Of recent years three great navigational systems have come into use, the Gee, the Loran and the Decca, and during the war the Decca system of hyperbolic or lattice navigation proved its value up to the hilt. The principle of the Decca system is that four transmitting stations are arranged in a star pattern with the master station (at Buntingford, Herts) in the centre, and three other stations, known respectively as Red, Green and Purple Slaves, at Stoke Holy Cross, Norfolk, at East Hoathley, Sussex, and Wormleighton, Warwickshire, grouped around. Transmissions from the four stations are on different frequencies, but they are locked together so that they all transmit at the same time. At any point in an area covered by the master and one of the slave stations, there exists a relationship between the two transmitted phases which varies with distance. If a large number of readings of this phase difference are plotted, they produce a series of curves of hyperbolic shape. Navigators plot their position on the lattice chart.

A RIVAL TO THE PANAMA CANAL

Making a Land Canal Across the Tehuantepec Isthmus

THE PANAMA CANAL AND ITS POSSIBLE RIVAL: A sketch-map showing the position of the famous waterway and also of the proposed dry canal across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec

THE SCHEME TO BY-PASS THE PANAMA CANAL: An artist's impression of the Mexican plan to haul merchant ships across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec on dry-docks mounted on multiple rails. This unprecedented method of linking the Atlantic with the Pacific is sponsored by Modesto C. Rolland, head of the Free Port Department of the Mexican Treasury

—Drawing by S. E. Beck

The idea of by-passing the Panama Canal is no new one, and it appears that the Mexican Government is now seriously contemplating such a project by building a multiple railway track across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and transporting upon it mobile dry-docks equipped to carry liners up to 15,000 tons burden. The scheme has been put forward by Señor Rolland, of the Treasury Department of the Mexican Government, and he urges that at a cost of £40,000,000 it would create a saving of 1,500 miles for all vessels plying from North Atlantic to North Pacific ports, particularly on the coastal route from New York to San Francisco. The mobile docks would be operated by Diesel engines developing a total of 22,000 h.p. The rail line, with two sets of multiple rails, would end at the mouth of the Coatsacoalcos River near Puerto Mexico on the Gulf Coast side, and on the shores of Laguna Superior near Salina Cruz on the Pacific

PERATING THE DECCA SYSTEM OF HYPERBOLIC NAVIGATION: The transmitters (*left*) and the control panel (*right*) inside the Decca transmitting station at East Hoathley, near Lewes. This is known as the Green Slave Station and, in conjunction with the master station at Buntingford, Herts, it can provide the aerial navigator with data exactly fixing his position on a lattice chart. Transmission from the slave and master station is on a different frequency and this difference varies with the distance. The phase differences are plotted by the aircraft navigator, and after a series of plots he is able to obtain his answer. The Decca system is now being extended to operate over longer ranges, and it was recently viewed by members of the Radio Technical Division of P.I.C.A.O.

DE GAULLE AND THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY

He Wishes to See a Powerful Chief Executive and a Constitution Based on American Lines

By FERDINAND TUOHY

IN a fortnight's time we shall be wiser concerning the immediate French future, which carries along with it a marked influence on that of Western Europe too.

It seems months and months since we took close notice of France's domestic affairs, which have either been overlaid by the novelties of the Paris Peace Conference, or have come to us in gusts of black-market scandals, revived tourism, and fashion. From November 10, date of the general election to the Assembly, this time a five-year affair of accrued power, until the turn of the year, when choice of the first President of the Fourth Republic will really complete the structure, French politics and personalities should repeatedly find their way back to our front pages.

From 1943 onward, French people decided that there would have to be a new Constitution ; also that, in its acquisition, a struggle would have to be waged round the personality of Charles de Gaulle.

This signal character is half a democrat. He sincerely wants to better the common lot by striking at abuses, and he wrestles lengthily with the war thought which could bring democracy right down, but he does not believe that the commonalty is capable of doing either of these things successfully on its own. He sees wide crevasses in democracy, absence of protection alike against the herding majority and the infatuated minority, not to mention a continuous risk of coming under the rule or thumb of mediocrity and worse, acting in the name of the people.

So the General offers leadership, strong, straight and purposeful, and if some say this born commander is looking at himself in a mirror, others could retort that he was much struck by the latitude bestowed upon Churchill and Roosevelt, and by the use each made of it. Governance in peacetime requires the inspiration, sureness and logistics of war.

While head-and-shouldering a provisional Government for fourteen months, the General made no secret of his desire to see the future French Chief of State invested with the powers of an American President. Given your man, it worked ; *but* democracy would have to weigh and assess its man much more closely before electing him.

At the same time, De Gaulle worked carefully with all parties, Communists included, and if he did not fully carry the day on October 21, 1945, when the French people voted for the first time in nine years, and such years, the much-acclaimed hero consented with indifferent grace to head the new Government. The 1875 Constitution had been abolished by the vote that saw him back in power, and the General proceeded to rule under a provisional Constitution which only ends now.

But De Gaulle walked out last January, alleging that even the whittled-down safeguards he had agreed to swallow for the sake of France had been encroached upon. " High-handed action," " Bonapartism," declared his critics. Even his adherents thought the General had treated them cavalierly. In Britain and America, it was decided that De Gaulle had cooked his goose. One could almost hear the wishful thinkers' broad sigh of relief.

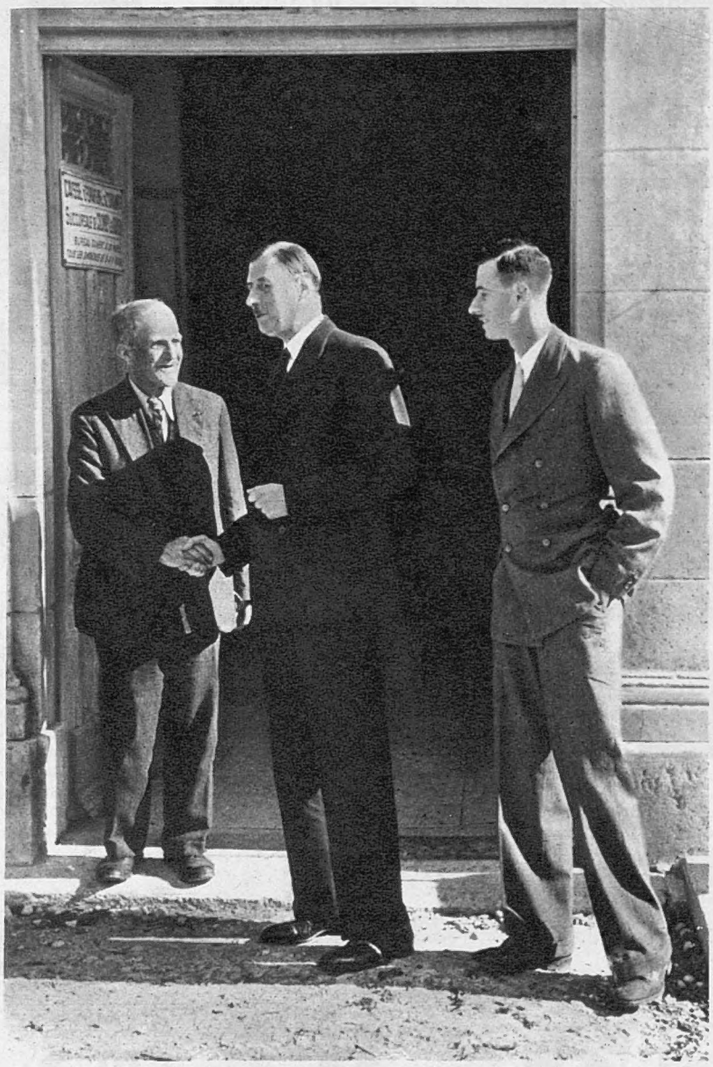
Perhaps a truer reading was that the majority of French people thought some fresh air in the country would do the General good, because he had paid insufficient attention to the badly-deteriorated daily living conditions of the townsfolk especially, and had spent too much of his time worrying about politics and the international shake-up.

The next kilometre-stone was reached on May 5 last, when the French rejected the draft Constitution prepared by the first Constituent Assembly. In the existing situation this would have represented a highly-skilled victory for the Communists on the score that, through all the verbiage, it virtually made over the country to the largest party in the Assembly, which could have exerted dictatorial powers (the Senate having been done away with). It was De Gaulle's ringing veto which threw out this first Constitution and, ever since, the Communists under Thorez have been at open war with France's most respected and compelling figure.

After May the three main parties, M.R.P., Communists and Socialists, put their heads together with the object of engendering a Constitution that would be acceptable. It was a tricky business inasmuch as if Right, Centre and Left all had to give something, the Communists would find it harder to give than the others.

M.R.P., De Gaulle's child, had the major say, and its spruce, attractive and capable leader, who resisted inside France even as the General had resisted outside, George Bidault, professor-journalist, finally hoped he had placated the mislaid leader who had taken to stalking abroad, as if on patrol and firing off an occasional warning round.

In effect, the Constitution which has just been barely voted, humoured De Gaulle by its creation of a High Council and Assembly of the French Union, a bringing-in of French overseas possessions which have never been known for Leftism ; it strengthened the Executive during the crisis attendant on a dissolution ; and it gave the President more say in appointing the High Council of the Magistracy.



DE GAULLE CASTS HIS VOTE : The former French leader shaking hands with the Mayor of Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises, the little French township where he resides, after voting in the referendum on the Constitution. On the right is his son, Ensign Philippe de Gaulle, in features like his father. The General, from his position in the wings of the French political stage, has denounced the new Constitution on the grounds that it gives insufficient power to the President

But the General proclaimed that even this titivated Constitution would lead to anarchy and dictatorship—and that 's how things stood when the people of France took their say the other Sunday.

Figures must be allowed to speak :

Voters on the roll - - -	25,379,917
Ayes - - - - -	9,120,576
Noes - - - - -	7,980,333
Abstentions - - -	7,938,884

What does it bode for France when not much more than one-third support the new Constitution ; and is it good enough to remind that the 1875 Constitution sneaked in by one solitary electoral vote ? *Autres temps . . .*

At once the mystery of the abstentionists became the topic of the day. Who were they and why did they hold off ? Here are the more salient explanations advanced :

Willingness to vote " Yes " sank rapidly with the recent crop of scandals. These affected everyone, being concerned with wine, wheat, sugar, coffee, dried vegetables, textiles. The three main parties slung mud at one another and at least the officials of Ministers, if not Ministers themselves, were involved. Millions decided that the " new " political set-up smelt too much of inter-war Staviskism to merit their vote.

The General had declared war on *all* Parties, even on his offspring, M.R.P. (for " deserting positions it had sworn to defend ") and on a Gaullist Party latecomer. In the existing mood of cynical disgust, why not take a cue from him ? Not to vote was a stroke against party politics.

The women's vote was reduced through women acceding in part to the wishes of their menfolk. Women who wished to follow De Gaulle outright agreed " for the sake of peace and quiet " to desist from doing so. But if it wasn't to be the General, it would be nobody.

The French are in a state of anxiety, cynicism and apathy, and many took little or no interest in the third national voting to eventuate inside twelve months. The belief is strong that the whole situation is unreal, these revolutionary atomic times, and nothing that occurred at the Paris Peace Conference lessened the sentiment. On the contrary, the childish bickering was worse than any nineteenth-century performance, and the general objective much the same. Having that Conference in their midst may have affected the French more than others allow for.

By abstaining in a big way, the Constitution would probably slip through by a majority so slender as to imply a slap in the face. But in voting " No," there 'd be no Constitution at all ; another spell of provisionalism, and there had been enough of that. " Let them bring in something that we can hang our hats on ; then we 'll see ! "

This explanation could well be nearer the mark than some of the others. For already the cry of " Revision ! " is heard in the land of France. It has even been officially espoused, and in double-quick time, by Bidault's majority M.R.P. party. The call to the country is now to vote a solid Moderate majority to form the Assembly, on November 10, after which date various revisions to the Constitution will be undertaken with the consent of the Chamber. Fortunately, those who charted the framework have left ample machinery for revision, all of which, needless to say, would move in response to the magnet of the General on patrol.

Having won a moral victory that shows him to be even more widely supported than expected, will De Gaulle go to the polls at the head of a rival party of his own ? The boulevard pundits ask that, not I. I fail to see why the General's long-standing desire should have become modified. He wants a Constitution that strengthens the Presidency to White House proportions and he will ease into the Elysée just as soon as the latest exemplar is sufficiently revised. But the way to his dream-palace is definitely not via party politics.

The trouble, of course, is that any revision adjudged by the extreme Left to be " just too much," can only have the effect of causing the Communists really to *partir en guerre* ; by which is meant the loosing of national strikes hitherto mercifully spared wounded France more by Communist tactics than anything else ; strikes which would find millions in a " barricade " frame of mind. It 's so easy to evoke possible blood and thunder. Yet it is so hard to believe that this Constitution will " pick up as it goes along," given the pro-Communist and anti-Communist division, the only real one.

De Gaulle may gain by a new trend that he has started, one to which this country should pay heed. He believes war may come as early as 1948 between Russia and the Anglo-Saxon Powers (and none should scoff at his powers of divination). He sees France as the cockpit of such a war, unless she gives herself an Executive beforehand, sufficiently authoritative to say to the likely belligerents : " Keep outside France ! "

That suggests a move towards French neutrality, now that Schlieffen plans no longer lay the country open to invasion. No Frenchman ever before dreamt of being neutral in a European war. " *Like Sweden, Switzerland, and the other lucky ones ?* " It could be a decisive card if the General intends to play it.

THE DESERT SQUATTERS : The Beduin tribesmen look on while young Jewish settlers put barbed wire round the settlement which they have built overnight in Palestine's Southern Desert

SPEED WAS THE ESSENCE OF THE CONTRACT : Jewish settlers at work erecting huts on the stretch of desert land on which they descended without warning, bringing with them building materials, hammers, nails, and a supply of rations

UP GO THE HUTS : The settlers going full speed ahead on the first day of their arrival in the desert. As foundations they used breeze blocks and, such was their haste, no attempt was made to cement them together

A NEW SETTLEMENT IS BORN IN PALESTINE

A Jewish Operation In Secret in the Southern Desert Territory

In its fight to make Palestine the Jewish national home, Jewry has been nothing if not enterprising, although in the matter of immigrant-running that enterprise has bitterly complicated an always difficult situation. One of the latest diversions is the squatting movement in the Southern Desert, which has been carried out by about 2,000 Jews as a military manœuvre, and has been executed with lightning efficiency.

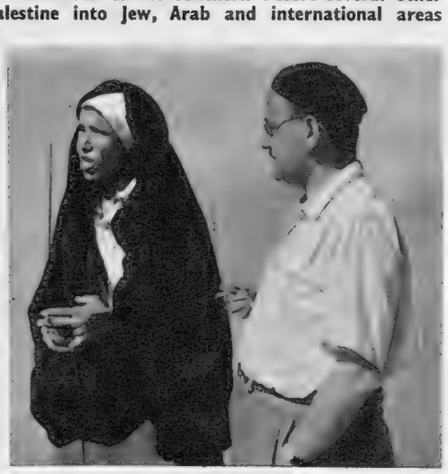
It appears that, without warning, a convoy of lorries filled with prefabricated housing materials descended on a barren area in the desert and, after unloading in the dead of night, the settlers set to work erecting huts. Within thirty-six hours of their arrival the huts were roofed and ready for occupation; a barbed-wire fence had been built around the settlement, and the Palestine Police were faced with a *fait accompli*. It is understood that several such settlements have come into being, their mushroom growth causing bewilderment among the local Beduin, and they really constitute an effort on the part of the Jews to claim their right to settle in any unoccupied portion of the Holy Land.

At the settlement illustrated on this page the man who planned the operation was Mr. I. Tschernowitz, and he marshalled his forces with such skill that the police had no warning of the operation.

THE MUSHROOM SETTLEMENT AFTER THIRTY-SIX HOURS OF UNREMITTING TOIL : At sunset on the second day the settlers stand outside two of the completed huts which they have set up with such lightning speed and surrounded with barbed-wire entanglements. In the same area of the Southern Desert several other settlements have sprung up at the same time, and they are really a challenge to the plan to divide Palestine into Jew, Arab and international areas

On left—A DESERT INDABA : Representatives of the Jewish settlers conferring with the local Arab tribesmen on the outskirts of the encampment. The Jews explained that their sudden appearance was perfectly friendly in character, and they attempted to calm the Arab fears. The fact that the Jewish settlers arrived at midnight made this example of desert squatting all the more spectacular. Their main idea was to present the Palestine Police patrols with a *fait accompli*, otherwise they anticipated that the police would drive them from the spot

On right—THE MAN WHO PLANNED THE OPERATION : Mr. I. Tschernowitz talking to a Beduin over a friendly cigarette. The Beduin is still amazed at the swiftness with which the desert settlement has been got going



REPRIEVE for the MEN of KLUANG

And Other News Pictures from Overseas

When the news reached Britain from Malaya that the 243 paratroopers who were accused of mutiny at Muar had been sentenced to terms of imprisonment averaging over two years per man, immediate action was taken in this country, and over 100 M.P.s, besieged by their constituents, in turn tackled Mr. Bellenger, the new War Minister, with regard to the legality of the trial. Mr. Bellenger made a spirited reply, declaring that mutiny would not be tolerated in the British Army, but within twenty-four hours the Judge Advocate-General, after considering the manner of the trial, and particularly the manner in which some of the evidence had been heard, reported that there had been "legal irregularities of a substantial nature." As a result the sentences were quashed, and the men were at once set free

THE MEN OF KLUANG AFTER THE NEWS OF THEIR RELEASE: Some of the 243 paratroopers, who won their freedom following an outcry in Parliament, seen on their way to Singapore after being informed that their sentences had been quashed

THE PROSPECT OF PEACE IN INDONESIA: Professor Willem Schermerhorn, a former Dutch Premier and head of the Dutch Commission-General, making his inaugural address at the Batavia Conference. The Conference was called at the beginning of this month in order to bring together the Dutch Commission-General and the Indonesian leaders. Dr. Schermerhorn and his Mission are armed with the widest powers, very similar to those given to the British Cabinet Mission to India, and they have already achieved a large measure of success by bringing about a complete truce in Java. Seated on the left of Professor Schermerhorn is Dr. Van Mook, the Governor-General, whose earlier attempts at negotiation broke down owing to the uncertainty in Holland and the limitations of his mandate. Chairman of the Conference is Lord Killearn, the British representative. The truce is based on the stabilisation of the present military positions. Under its terms the last British forces will be withdrawn from the Dutch East Indies by November 30. British advisers will also withdraw from the Commission-General

LORD KILLEARN ADDRESSES THE BATAVIA CONFERENCE: The British representative speaking to the Dutch and Indonesian delegates. On the right is Dr. Sjahrir, the Indonesian Premier, and on the left are Professor Schermerhorn, head of the Dutch Commission-General, and Dr. Van Mook, the Dutch Governor-General. Seated in the background on the right is Lord Killearn's deputy, Mr. Wright. Lord Killearn has already played a notable part in helping to dispel the suspicion on both sides.

THE DESERT RATS REACH THE END OF THE ROAD : This simple monument has been erected by the Seventh Armoured Division to commemorate their historic journey from El Alamein to Berlin, via Africa, Italy, France, Belgium and Holland. On the other side of the monument are recorded the Division's principal battles, and on this side are named the countries through which the Division passed. The monument stands beneath the trees at the point where the autobahn from Westphalia crosses the boundary of Berlin. There was no unveiling ceremony. The Desert Rats first fought under Wavell

BATTLE HONOURS OF THE DESERT RATS : The names of famous engagements are recorded on this side of the monument set up at the end of the autobahn in Berlin

A WAR CRIMES TRIAL IN HONG KONG : Major G. R. Piddicombe, of Montreal, the Prosecuting Counsel, seated with a colleague during the hearing of the case against Niimori Genichiro, who was accused of atrocities both in Shanghai and on the high seas. The accused, who is seen seated in the background, was sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment. At one time he was interpreter on the "Lisbon Maru," a prison ship which was torpedoed by the Americans

A BULLY AT BAY : Niimori Genichiro sits apprehensively on his chair in the dock, and behind him is a member of the Provost staff. After hearing the story of his unfeeling crimes against British and American prisoners of war, Genichiro received fifteen years' imprisonment

THE DORTMUND-EMS CANAL IS IN OPERATION AGAIN : One of the huge sluice gates in its raised position as motor barges approach. The canal, a vital German waterway connecting Dortmund in the Ruhr with the North Sea at Emden, 168 miles away, was a favourite target of the R.A.F. during the war, and on more than one occasion whole sections of it were drained as a result of British bombing. Later, when the Germans were in retreat, they blew up 319 of the 360 bridges crossing the canal. The canal was out of commission for over a year, but it is now in working operation throughout

HALF A BARGE LIES WRECKED IN THE DORTMUND-EMS CANAL : A scene on the much-bombed waterway, which is now in action again. The canal can handle 240,000 tons of traffic a month at Emden

TRIESTE AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

And Other Pictures from the Mediterranean Region

CARINTHIA—WHERE 30,000 BRITISH TROOPS KEEP WATCH AND WARD: A diagrammatic sketch of the South Austrian frontier between Villach, Klagenfurt and Graz, and facing the mountain barrier beyond which lie Yugoslavia and the much-debated international zone of Trieste. In this picturesque province of Carinthia the British Army of Occupation has made a profound impression and has to a marked extent won the affection of the people, our ex-enemies. In Carinthia the British Army helps to run the timber industry, it has organised the harvest, and, indeed, engages in a multitude of activities, and it has found time for sport of every kind on a most elaborate scale. On the many lakes in the province, fishing and boating have been particularly popular during the summer—*Drawing by W. G. Whitaker*

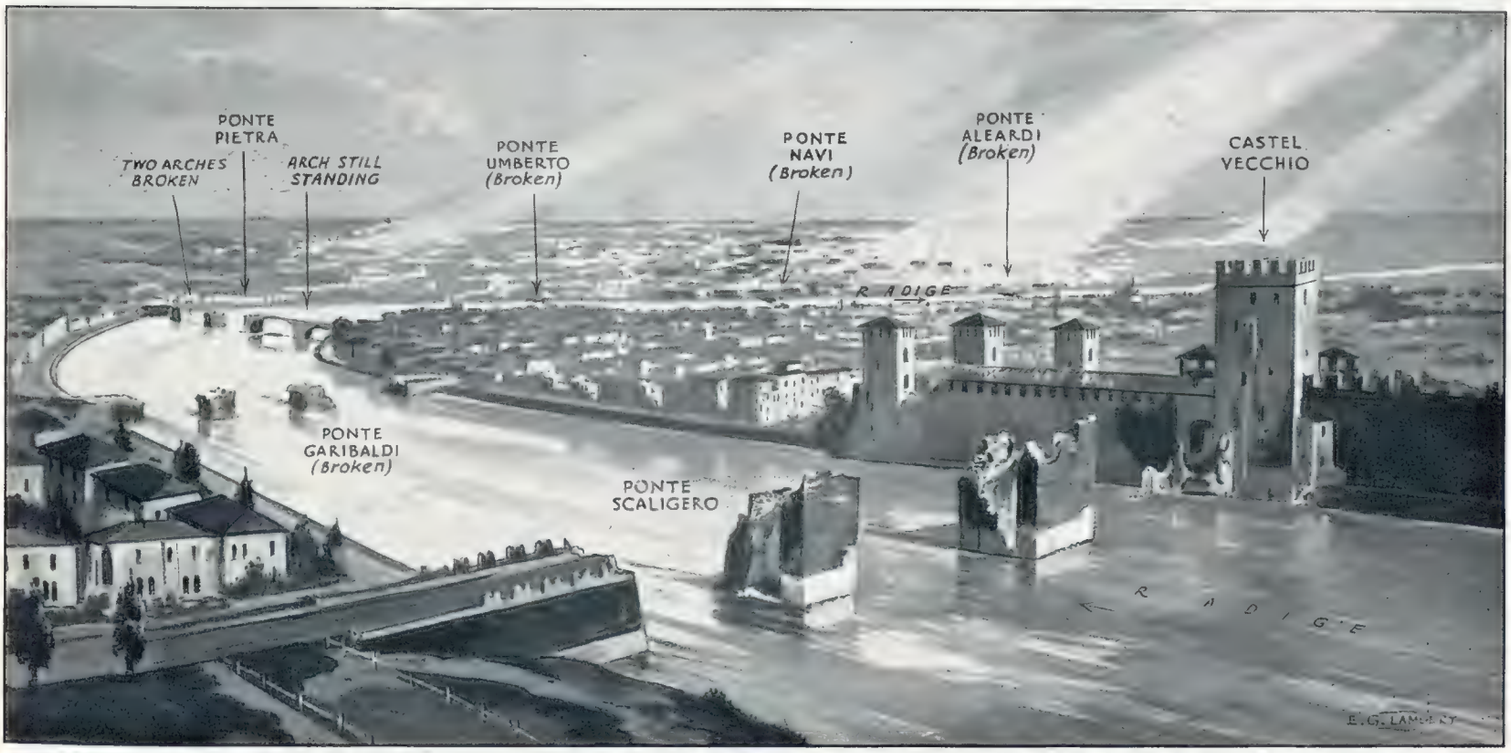
THE CREATION OF AN IRON CURTAIN IN MIDDLE EUROPE: Citizens of Belgrade gazing into the windows of the American Reading Room in the city. This reading room, together with its information kiosks, has now been closed down as a result of a note despatched by the Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs requesting its suspension "without delay." The United States Ambassador advised the closure, and announced that the new director of the United States Information Service would be assigned to other duties. At a subsequent Press conference the Ambassador said that the Yugoslavian protest was accompanied by no reasons, and it was nothing short of incredible that the Yugoslavian Government should have taken such a step. "The move is barring American thought from Yugoslavia," he concluded

FRONTIERS MEET: A diagrammatic sketch showing the southern province of Austria, where 30,000 British troops are concentrated along the mountain wall adjoining Northern Yugoslavia. South of Villach down to Trieste runs the new treaty line agreed upon at the Paris Conference. The internationalisation of Trieste has been accepted by the Italians with much misgiving, but, as Britain's Foreign Secretary pointed out in his closing Paris speech, it might well become "a symbol of unity, a port of peace where all the races, including Latin and Slav, might work together"

Before the war of 1939-45 as often as not the eyes of the world were focused on Danzig, so symptomatic was the Corridor of the malaise of Europe. To-day Trieste occupies that unenviable role, and although the Paris Peace Conference has decided that Trieste's role shall be international, the decision must now be implemented, with Italian and Slav revealing a new measure of goodwill. Meanwhile, in neighbouring Yugoslavia the rise of nationalism, referred to by Mr. Bevin in Paris, goes on unchecked, and the new Yugoslavia mistrustfully looks across the northern frontier to the Austrian province where 30,000 British troops are stationed

JEWISH IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE IN CYPRUS—MEN AND WOMEN ARE DETAILED TO THEIR TRUCKS ON REACHING FAMAGUSTA AND BEFORE BEING TAKEN TO THE CAMPS PREPARED FOR THEIR RECEPTION: The arrival of the Jews at first aroused local resentment, but since then conditions have improved—*Drawing by W. G. Whitaker*

Cyprus has been an intensely busy place during the past few weeks as large numbers of illegal Jewish immigrants, attempting to seek entry into Palestine, have been intercepted by the British Navy and transhipped to Famagusta, there to be placed in camps until their future can be determined. The necessity for concentrating the immigrants in Cyprus only became apparent when their numbers increased so rapidly that it was impossible, in the face of Arab opinion, to let them continue infiltrating into Palestine under a quota hopelessly mortgaged for the future. At first the Cypriots did not welcome the Jewish arrivals, while the Jews themselves staged numerous demonstrations in the camp at Kariolus and elsewhere, protesting against the harshness of the British Government. Meanwhile the British soldier has, as ever, carried on with his far from enviable task



GERMAN DESTRUCTION IN VERONA—WHAT THE WEHRMACHT DID TO THE SIX BRIDGES SPANNING THE RIVER ADIGE: A diagrammatic sketch based on the recently published official Government report of losses and survivals in Italy in the Second World War—*Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

As the Germans fled northward before the victorious advance of the Allies, Verona, historic city of Northern Italy, suffered sadly in the retreat, all six bridges being wrecked by mines. This diagrammatic sketch shows the Adige from the Ponte Scaligero to the Ponte Aleardi. The Ponte Scaligero, built in 1354, and the Ponte Pietra have always been regarded as historic monuments, and it is now known that Field-Marshal Kesselring, the German Commander, gave a written assurance that they would be spared. At 8.30 p.m. on April 25, 1945, all the bridges were blown up, however, and it subsequently transpired that the act had no military justification whatsoever. The celebrated Castel Scaligero was partly destroyed by artillery fire, and the remainder of the building was severely shaken when the Germans destroyed the adjoining bridge. Kesselring is now standing his trial in Italy

BRITAIN AND AUSTRALIA PLAN JOINT RESEARCH WITH ROCKET PROJECTILES: A diagrammatic drawing illustrating the recently announced scheme whereby rockets will be fired by naval vessels in the Indian Ocean and will land in the desert area of West Central Australia. This sketch shows the territory which has been selected for the forthcoming tests—*Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

ROCKET EXPERIMENTS

In Australia and America

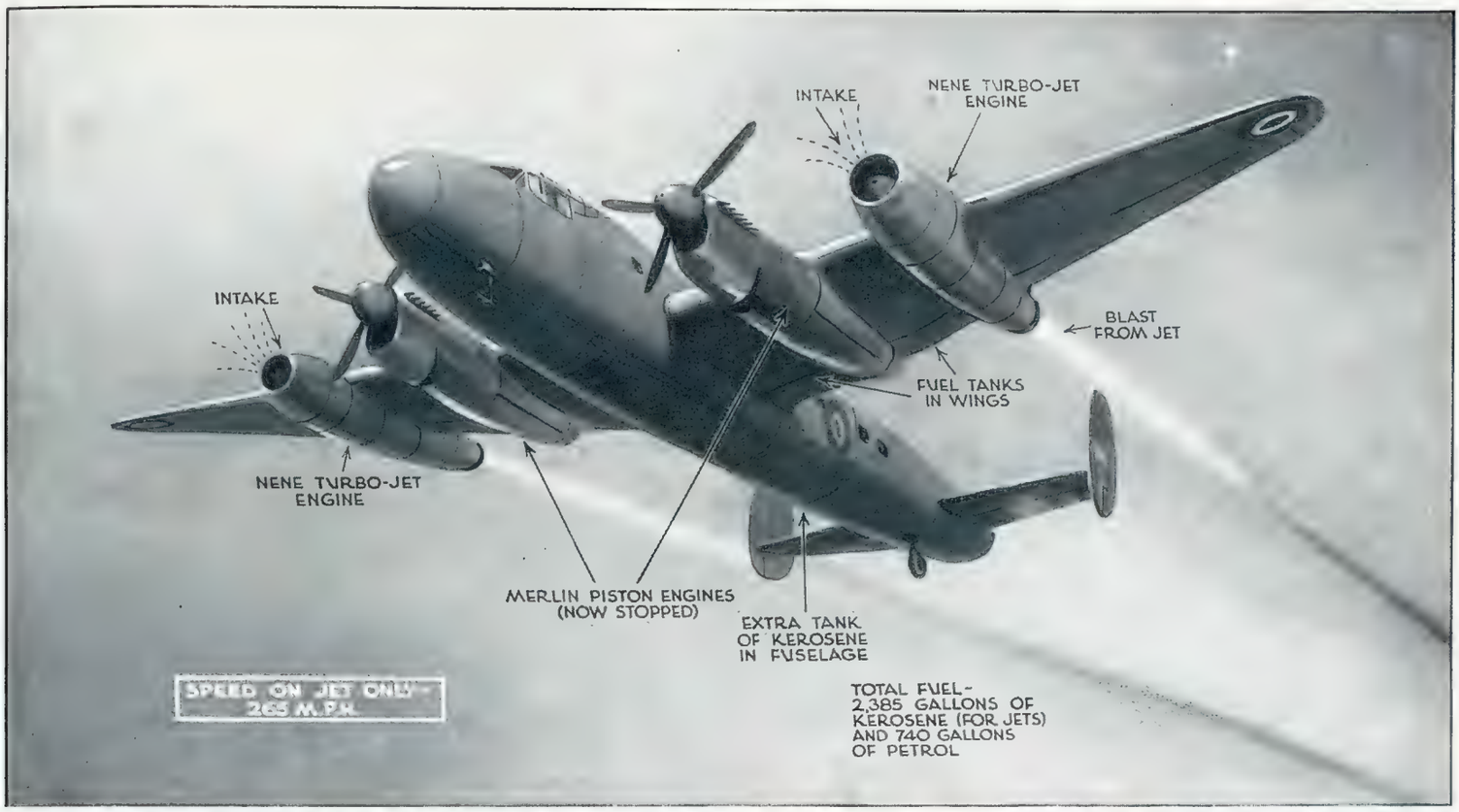
THE JET AIR-LINER

A Further Analysis

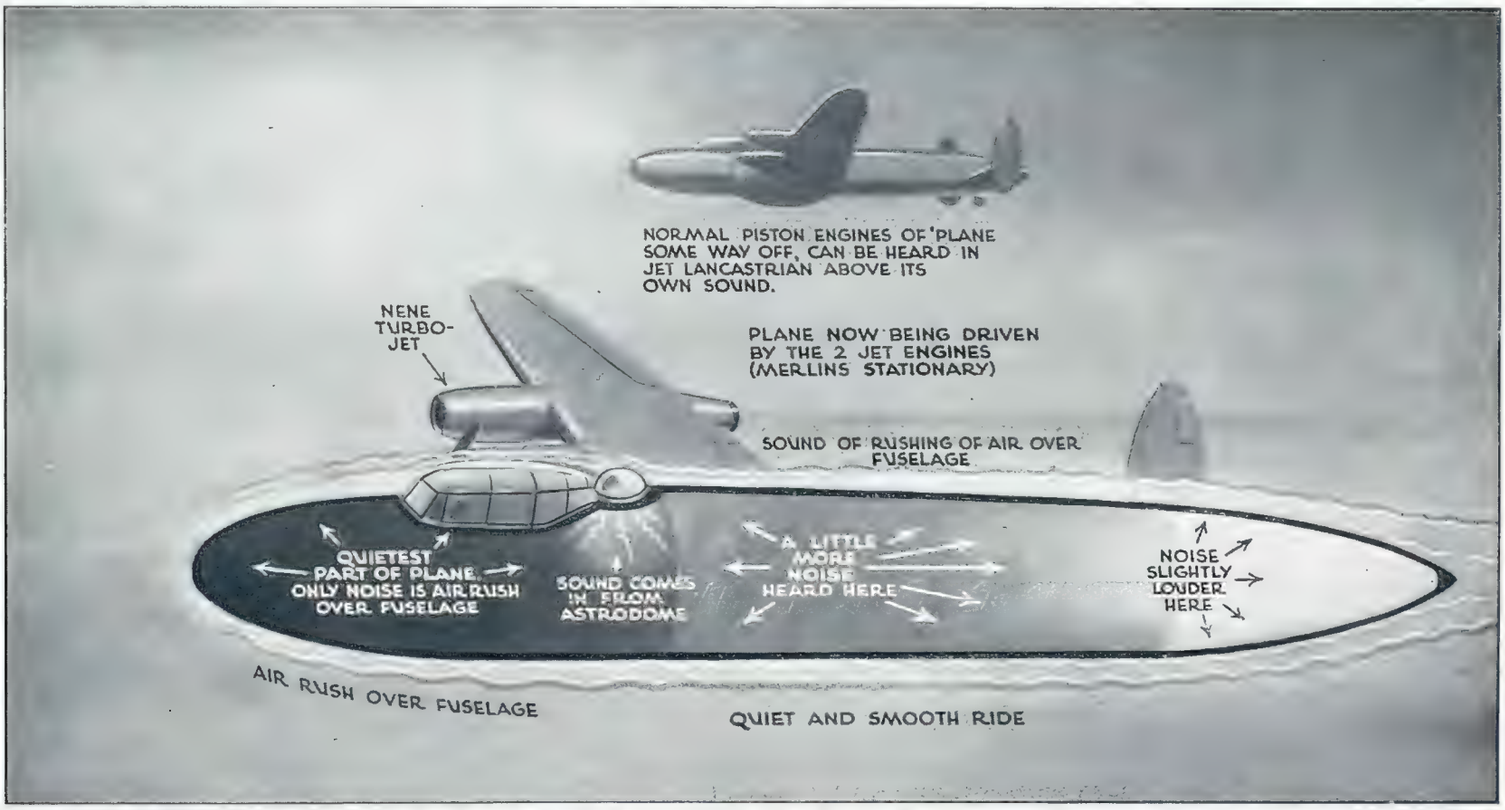
Rockets with a range of 10,000 miles are now considered technically feasible, and development of these extreme distance projectiles, and also antidotes to such weapons, are occupying the attention of scientists throughout the world. In this connection the British and Australian Governments have decided to co-operate, and only recently a British Rocket Mission arrived in Australia to make plans for this joint effort. It is believed that Mr. Chifley, the Australian Prime Minister, will co-operate to the utmost limit in this research, and it has just been announced from Sydney that the West Central area of Australia will probably be the scene of the first experiments, the rockets landing in the desert country after being fired from warships anchored some way out in the Indian Ocean. Meanwhile, at White Sands, New Mexico, the United States Government is continuing its modifications of the German V.2, and already some remarkable successes have been achieved. One new device enables the rocket to slow down on nearing the ground

A G.A.P.A. TAKES OFF: This missile, known as a Ground to Air Pilotless Aircraft, is recorded by the camera at the start of its flight above the United States Rocket-Testing Ground at White Sands, New Mexico. The G.A.P.A. is really a modification of the German V.2 and it has been adapted to seek out and destroy high-flying enemy weapons before they reach their targets. This particular rocket rose to a height of 102 miles at a speed of 3,600 m.p.h., but it remained a total of eleven minutes in the air as it was fitted with special devices to slow its descent. No details are given of the exact type of magnetic device with which the rocket is equipped to find its target, but it is to be presumed that it has the sympathetic detonating radio fuse

AMERICAN RESEARCH IN THE REALM OF SUPERSONIC FLIGHT: The Lockheed P.80 Shooting Star, with its "grand piano" finish. The Shooting Star, designed by Clarence Johnson, Lockheed's chief research engineer, is particularly remarkable for its skin surface, a polished wax coating covering the paint finish and adding measurably to the plane's performance when travelling in the region of 600 m.p.h. All rivet heads and seams are ground smooth, and afterwards pneumatic polishers are brought into action to create a super-gloss, which will offer minimum resistance to the elements. The P.80 has a specially modelled wing section and air entry duct, and its makers predict that it will raise the speed record to 630 m.p.h. Its American rival is the P.84 Thunderjet, which has done 608 m.p.h., or 7 m.p.h. less than the British record



THE NENE LANCASTRIAN IN FLIGHT: An artist's impression of the experimental air-liner which is fitted with two Rolls-Royce Nene engines and with two Merlin piston engines, being the first heavy aircraft to have the new form of power plant. The result of the tests with combined piston and jet engines has been to prove that the gas turbine is not only very reliable, but makes for smoother and more noiseless flying. One expert who has travelled in the Lancastrian declares that "one cannot imagine air-line passengers who had once experienced all-jet flight ever again being satisfied with the old methods"—*Drawing by Roland Davies*



WHEN THE NENE LANCASTRIAN FLIES ON ITS TWO JET ENGINES: A diagrammatic drawing showing the comparative smoothness of the ride after the piston engines have been turned off and the machine relies only on its turbines. It appears that the noise is at its least in the pilot's cabin, but in all parts of the machine it is still very considerably less than the quietest of piston-engined aircraft. *Below, in centre*—A photograph of the Nene Lancastrian on one of its test flights

That the piston engine is nearing the end of its usefulness in the realm of air travel is now an accepted fact, and the first air-line to overcome the remaining technical difficulties in the way of all jet propulsion for its passenger aircraft will not only revolutionise air transport, but will for the time being achieve a virtual monopoly of the passenger trade. Those who have travelled in the experimental Lancastrian with its two piston engines and its two Nene jet-propulsion units have been most enthusiastic in their praises, and during this interim period of jet development there may still be a case for the employment of mixed power aircraft. At the moment the present high fuel consumption of pure jet units at lower levels and speeds, and their reduced flexibility for circuits, approaches and use on the ground are likely to remain as handicaps but the unique advantages of pure jet-powered flight are now plain to see. It is not just a case of the jet liner being largely noiseless but vibration is also vastly reduced and the passenger feels that he or she is gliding through space with a silent, graceful ease. The conversion of the Nene Lancastrian was a task of some magnitude and with her two types of power unit she has had to be equipped with two sets of instruments. The modification to the wing spar entails the provision of brackets from which the Nene mountings are slung

Fuel for turbo jet engines is carried in auxiliary tanks mounted in the lower part of the fuselage. In addition, two of three standard tanks in each wing carry paraffin and the third petrol. The total fuel capacity of the Lancastrian amounts to 2,385 gallons of paraffin and 740 gallons of petrol, and the weight of fuel carried is approximately 11 tons. The Lancastrian flies well on two piston engines and one jet, so that idling and re-starting tests on either Nene can be made in flight at the higher altitudes. Although turbo jets are mechanically simpler than piston engines, having many less working parts, they are considerably more expensive at the present time, and it is expected that this state of affairs will continue for several years, a factor that will doubtless weigh heavily with air-line companies contemplating the change-over to the new form of propulsion

THE FINISH OF THE CESAREWITCH PRODUCES ANOTHER SPECTACULAR FRENCH VICTORY: The French-trained-and-bred horse Monsieur L'Amiral (owned by Mr. H. Barnard Hankey and ridden by Harry Wragg) passing the post three-quarters of a length in front of Ford Transport and Geoffrey's Lady in last week's great race at Newmarket. Monsieur L'Amiral started at odds of 33 to 1, and over this 2¼-mile course provided one more convincing proof of the present superiority of French bloodstock on the British turf

FRENCH RACEHORSES TRIUMPH IN BRITISH RACES

Monsieur L'Amiral Brings Off Another Successful Coup at Newmarket

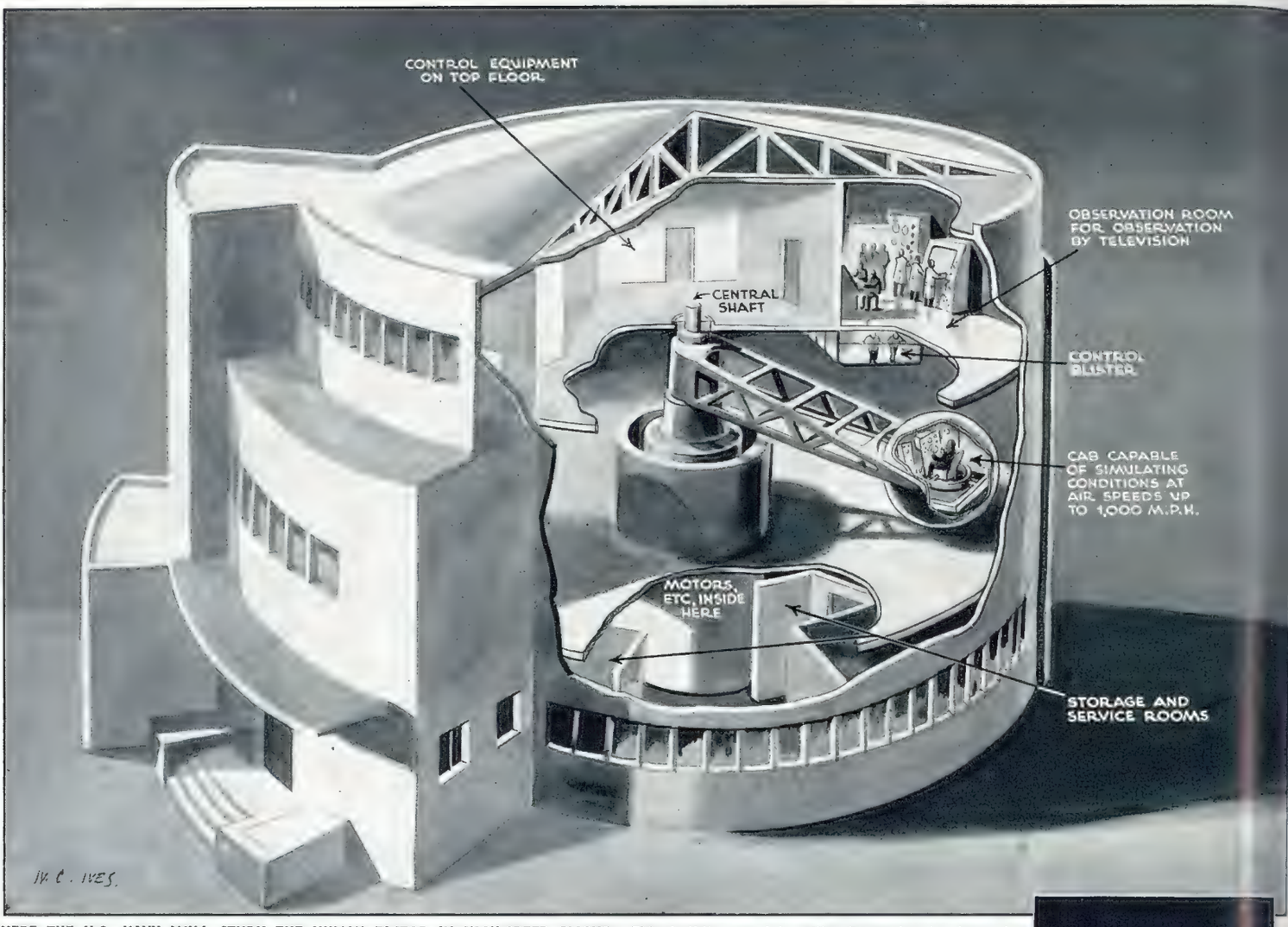
In this first full season of post-war racing the English turf has been dominated as never before by French bloodstock, and in nearly all the great long-distance races, such as the Ascot Gold Cup (Caracalla II), the George VI Stakes (Souverain), the Queen Alexandra Stakes (Marsyas II) and the Goodwood Cup (Marsyas II), French-bred and French-trained horses have carried the day. Even Airborne, our Derby and St. Leger winner, with the staying blood of Precipitation, was no match for Souverain, the Grand Prix winner, and last week the tale of French victories was continued when Monsieur L'Amiral made an irresistible late run, with Harry Wragg up, to win the Cesarewitch, the first leg of the autumn double. Some say the British failures are due to equine rationing through six years of war, and others say that we have sought too much the strains that do not stay; but whatever they are, they are causing breeders, owners and trainers no little uneasiness.

ROYAL HUSTLE INTRODUCES AN EQUINE FASHION: This thoroughbred, now in training at the Hipodromo de las Americas, Mexico City, wears blinkers with plastic eye-pieces. His trainer, Mrs. Ellis, finds that these eye-pieces protect the eyes from flying clods during wet weather, and they are used on all training spins. On some race-tracks in Mexico there are many loose stones, and it is thought possible that this equipment may become standard

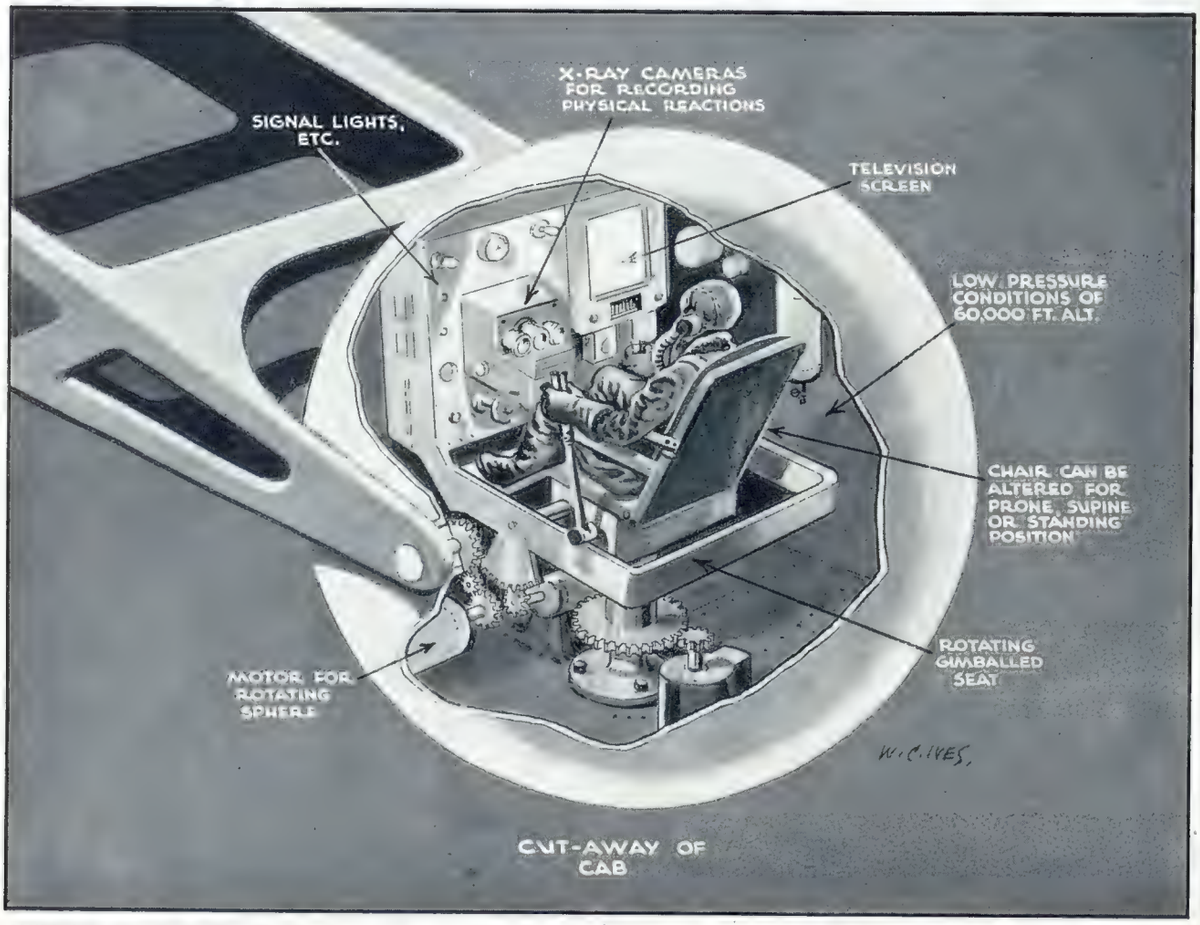
MONSIEUR L'AMIRAL COMPLETES THE FIRST LEG OF THE AUTUMN DOUBLE: The winner of the Cesarewitch being led into the unsaddling enclosure at Newmarket after his convincing victory, another triumph for French staying blood. Monsieur L'Amiral is by Admiral Drake, who will be remembered as the winner of the 1934 Grand Prix when ridden by the late Stephen Donoghue

BRITISH RACEHORSES ARE NOW A BIG EXPORT ITEM: Thoroughbreds about to be taken aboard the British-India steamer "Queda" at the Royal Albert Docks, London. Altogether 152 horses, worth £250,000, were dispatched aboard the "Queda," many of the boxes being on the open deck. Most of the horses have been bought at British sales by agents acting on behalf of the Indian Princes. India has always been a big buyer of British racehorses, and some of them, like Play On, the Lincoln winner, have achieved fame on the Indian tracks

PARADING FOR THE CESAREWITCH ON NEWMARKET HEATH—THE SCENE IN THE RING BEFORE THE TWENTY-SEVEN RUNNERS WENT OUT TO CONTEST THE LONG-DISTANCE HANDICAP: During the war, while so many other courses were turned over to war work, providing camps and training grounds, Newmarket remained open and was the scene of the substitute Derby and other classics, and, indeed, of all the important races. It is partly because of this six years of little racing that British bloodstock are unable to meet the formidable challenge coming from the Continent, where staying blood would now appear to predominate



HERE THE U.S. NAVY WILL STUDY THE HUMAN FACTOR IN HIGH-SPEED FLIGHT: This building at Johnsville, Pennsylvania, is to be set up by the Naval Aircraft Modifications Unit with a view to testing equipment for high-speed aircraft and rocket projectiles, and recording man's reactions to forces developed in flight at speeds beyond the sonic barrier. The centrifuge will resemble an amusement park "aeroplane" with a cab at the end of a long arm revolving round a central shaft. The man in the cab will be suspended in an arrangement of gimbals allowing him to rotate through the centre of the car, and he will experience conditions similar to those which would be encountered when flying at over 600 m.p.h.—*Drawing by W. C. Ives*



CANDIDATE FOR CENTRIFUGATION: An artist's impression of the cabin of the new centrifuge which is to be built by the United States Navy at Johnsville, Pennsylvania. The would-be pilot wears a respirator, as the cabin pressure simulates conditions at an altitude of 60,000 ft. He will ride in various positions, prone, sitting or standing, and in the course of "flight" he may accelerate and change direction with lightning speed. X-ray cameras will be installed in the cab—*Drawing by W. C. Ives*

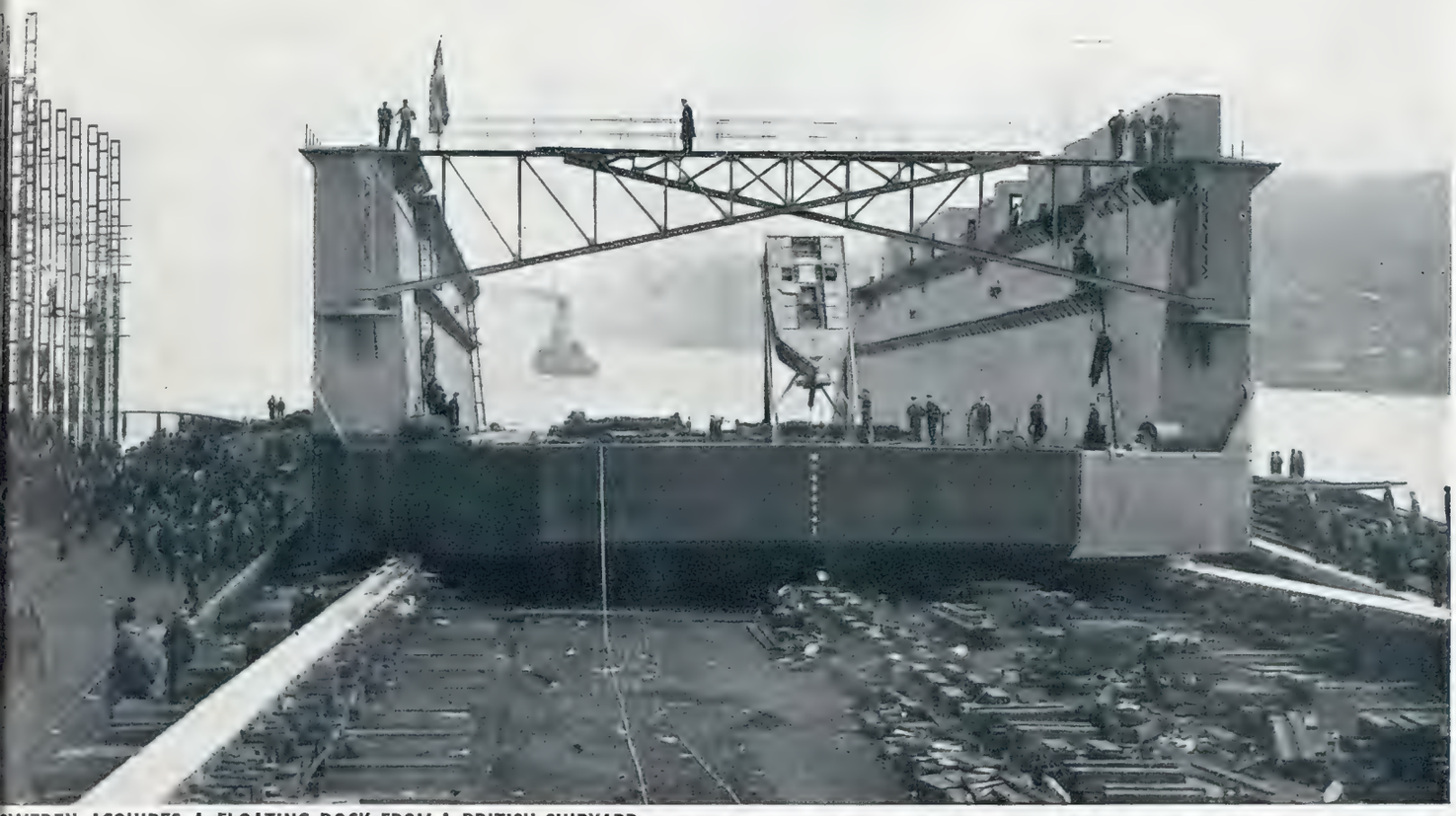
WHAT IS A CENTRIFUGE?

And Other Subjects of Scientific Interest from Two Continents

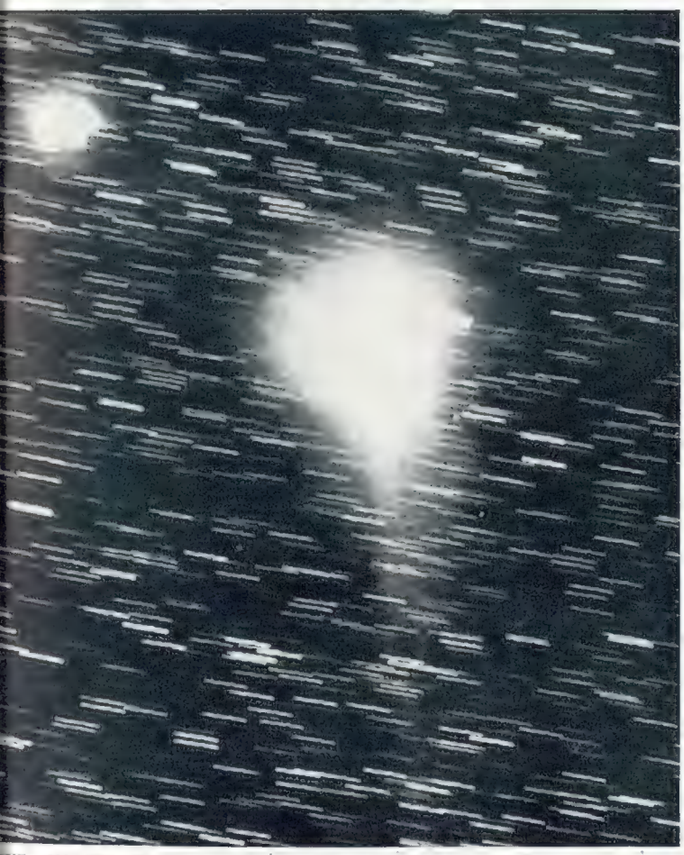
In the strictest sense of the term the centrifuge is a machine for separating liquids by centrifugal force, but the United States Navy has adapted the word to apply to their projected new apparatus for testing the human factor in flight at speeds beyond the sonic barrier. The centrifuge which they are erecting at Johnsville, Pennsylvania, is to be a most elaborate apparatus in which medical men and engineers are actively co-operating. Up to now the human factor in supersonic speed has not been studied to any marked degree, but if these speeds are ever to be achieved by air-lines the reactions of the pilot and the passenger will have to be studied exhaustively.

The cabin of the centrifuge, as it revolves round its axis, will simulate actual flight patterns and will reproduce conditions similar to those which would be encountered at speeds of 600 m.p.h. and more, and at heights of 60,000 ft. X-ray cameras and other sensitive recording devices will note down the reactions of each pilot.

The centrifuge building will be circular and of reinforced concrete construction. It will have three floors, the first containing the storage and service rooms, the second (28 ft. high) will house the centrifuge, and on the third floor will be an observation room permitting physiologists to observe the subject on a television screen.



SWEDEN ACQUIRES A FLOATING DOCK FROM A BRITISH SHIPYARD—THE NEW DOCK GOING DOWN THE SLIPWAY AT THE FURNESS SHIPBUILDING COMPANY'S HAVERTON HILL SHIPYARD, MIDDLESBROUGH : The launching ceremony was performed by Mrs. Hogberg, of Stockholm, and the dock, when fitted out, will be delivered to Aktiebolaget Funiboda Varf, of Stockholm. As the dock entered the water, tugs with hawsers attached stood by to check her progress across the river. Launching a dock is a task of particular complication, as in a high wind the towering sides, acting as sails, may render the whole structure unmanageable. For this launch weather conditions were perfect



THE GIACOBINI-ZINNER COMET COMES WITHIN 25,000,000 MILES OF THE EARTH : This picture was taken on September 27 at the Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, and shows the comet at its nearest point to the earth. The streaks in this picture are star trails on the negative resulting from the eighteen minutes' exposure. The phenomenon was also observed at the Army Operational Research Station in Richmond Park, where the meteors trailing behind the comet were registered on the cathode-ray tube of the radar apparatus. They appeared on the screen as peaks of light, averaging at one time about thirty an hour. Radar space research in this country is being conducted by Sir Edward Appleton, and he has achieved remarkable results in making radar contact with the sun during the period of sun-spot maximum

AUTUMN AND WINTER CUTS IN THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY : The control panel at the Central Electricity Board's District Control Room from which all power stations in London and South-East England are directed. Recently the Board issued a request to consumers to be careful in the use of current between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on a certain week-day, and at the same time a cut in supplies was made throughout England and Wales. During the autumn and winter it is expected that several more cuts will have to be made. Wherever possible the cuts will be made at times which will not unduly inconvenience the public

THE CACTI WERE ATTRACTION NO. 1 : Visitors to the stand of the Cactus and Succulent Society admiring the weird and wonderful plants at the Royal Horticultural Society's display at the New Hall, Westminster. Some are globular and some in columns, all are strangely spined to protect their juicy substances from the attacks of browsing animals. In the desert, or equally in the boarding-house window, they positively thrive on neglect

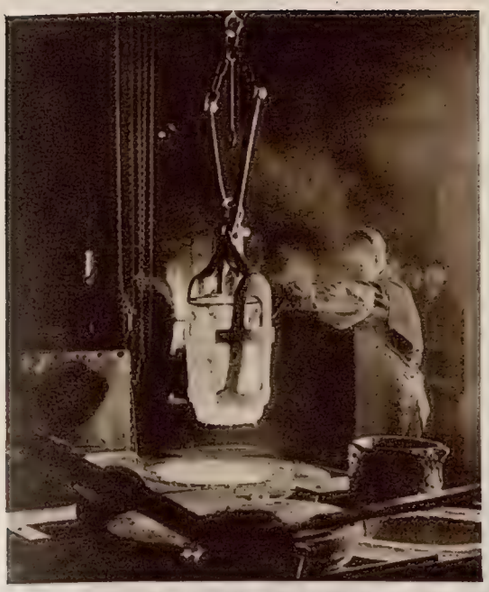
FASCINATION OF THE CACTI

A Popular Display at the Horticultural Show

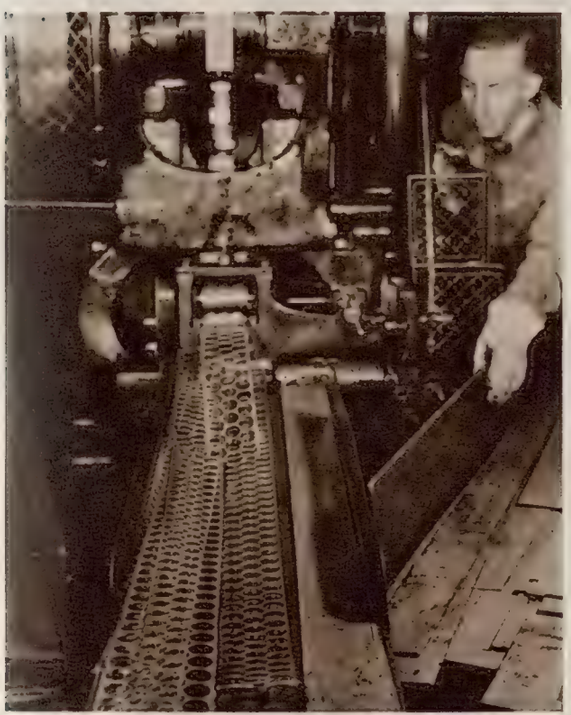
A RICH HARVEST FOR THE PARROTS : Mrs. H. Young runs a smallholding at Ashton-under-Lyne for the production of flowers bearing useful seeds. Sunflowers are her speciality, and here she is gathering seeds from sunflower heads. She sends her packets of seed to all parts of the country for feeding parrots and other domestic birds. Even poultry breeders, reluctant to part with their birds despite rationing, are now among her customers

FIRST REACTIONS AT A CACTUS SHOW : A visitor to the Royal Horticultural Society's display at the New Hall, Westminster, registers apprehension and wonderment at the stand organised by the Cactus and Succulent Society

Cacti stole the show at last week's display by the Royal Horticultural Society, and they seemed to exercise a peculiar fascination on those who thronged the New Hall, Westminster. The cactus (hedgehog or camel of the horticultural world) can grow in a pot for years without really blooming at all. In youth its flowering seasons are erratic and unpredictable. A native of Mexico, Brazil and other parts of America, it thrives on drought, and, compared with the aspidistra, the geranium and other indoor plants, on positive neglect. Young cacti need watering not more than once a week, less when they are old and hoary. Forget them for a month and they survive. Water them daily and you reduce them to a slimy pulp. They don't need artificial heat; they do well in living-rooms, grow best on a sunny window-sill. Seedling cacti, sold in miniature pots, costing from half-a-crown up, come in dozens of varieties and in colours that range from fleshy pink to bottle-green. When they outgrow their pots, transplant them into bigger sizes. Weird and wonderful, great fun to look at, and full of surprises, they make fascinating gardens for children when planted in groups. There's no fuss about watering; no mess. Thoroughly well armed by nature, they discourage all attempts to "see if the roots are growing," and they last for years and years



THE FIRST STAGES IN COIN PRODUCTION AT THE ROYAL MINT: *Left*—A crane transporting a glowing crucible of the molten metal to the mould. *Centre*—Molten silver being poured into the bar moulds, and (*right*) the silver-coinage bars being weighed after leaving the mould and before being rolled into strips. From now on silver will not be used at the Mint, an alloy of 75 per cent. copper and 25 per cent. nickel having been chosen to take its place



THE METAL STRIPS ARE TURNED INTO COINS: *Left*—The punching machine which produces the plain metal discs, and (*right*) a coin-press operator at work. In the presses the coins are turned out at the rate of 80 to 120 a minute

CASCADES OF CASH: *Left*—Finished coins being passed along an endless belt on which they are minutely examined for flaws, and (*right*) coins being weighed before packing and dispatch. When the coins are in a clean condition and they have not been worn in any way by public use, the weighing machine counts them with complete accuracy. Each year's output at the Mint is subjected to independent test at one of the most ancient monetary institutions, the Trial of the Pyx

MAKING THE NEW COINAGE

Scenes at the Mint, where Britain's Coins will be Made in Cupro-Nickel

Many people will have sentimental regrets for the passing of the English silver coinage, and the new cupro-nickel coins (75 per cent. copper and 25 per cent. nickel) will certainly be less attractive in appearance than those to which we have become accustomed.

Several M.P.s have urged that the new coins should be made wholly of nickel, as it is better in colour, exceptionally hard, and it opposes special difficulties to the counterfeiter. It seems, however, that the use of nickel would require various changes in minting machinery, and as a result Mr. Dalton has decided that we shall adopt the cupro-nickel alloy. The silver from the old coins will go to America in repayment of the 88,000,000 ounces acquired under Lease-Lend.

The accompanying pictures were taken during a recent visit to the Royal Mint, and they give an intimate glimpse of the workings of that great institution.

The output of the Royal Mint is enormous—something like 700,000,000 new coins being made yearly. Each coin turned out is the fruit of a series of processes commencing with the melting of the metal in special crucibles which are heated to 1,200 deg. C. The furnaces are gas-fired, and in most cases electric cranes are used to lift the glowing crucibles and transport them to the waiting moulds. From the moulds the metal emerges in rough bars, which are then passed on to rolling machines, which convert them into strips of uniform width and thickness. These strips then pass through the stamping machines which punch out blank discs corresponding in size to the coin that is being made. After having been examined on a special gauging table so that irregular discs may be discarded, the sound ones are passed through annealing drums to soften them for the final stamping. They are well washed in acid solution and dried by hot air, and are then ready to be fed to the coin presses, where the finished coins are turned out at a rate of 80 to 120 a minute. The finished coins are then passed on to an adjoining room for scrutiny. Each year's output is subjected to independent test at the Trial of the Pyx, where specimens of each new batch of new money have to be brought by the Deputy Master for testing before the King's Remembrancer representatives of the Board of Trade.

Home News in Pictures

BATH REMEMBERS ADMIRAL PHILLIP

The World Trade Conference in London: Swifter House Building

The International Trade and Employment Conference which met last week at Church House, Westminster, plans to implement a world trade policy. It hopes that the actions of each country in creating full employment may be co-ordinated into the general pattern, and that the dangers of cut-throat competition, a root cause of war, may be eliminated. The Conference at once set to work preparing an agenda for next year's meeting. Seventeen Governments were represented at these preliminary talks, the Soviet being notable absentees, and with the interpreting system, based on the Nuremberg pattern, working perfectly, the Conference at once made progress towards the executive stage. "Before the Conference," declared Sir Stafford Cripps, "there is a new principle and a new objective: the principle that what each country does to regulate its own trade is the concern of all countries'"

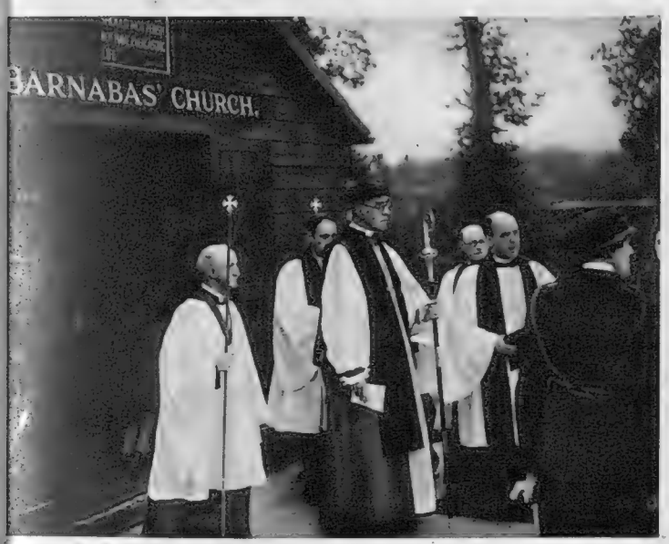
DISCUSSING THE FUTURE OF WORLD TRADE: The scene in Church House, Westminster, at the opening of the International Trade and Employment Conference, at which representatives of seventeen Governments have been preparing the agenda for a world conference next year. Delegates were welcomed by Sir Stafford Cripps, and the language problem was overcome (as it was at the Nuremberg trial) by interpreters providing immediate verbal translations

PHILLIP OF AUSTRALIA DAY AT BATH: The Mayor of Bath's procession leaving the Guildhall for the commemoration service in the Abbey on the 208th anniversary of the birth of Admiral Phillip, first Governor of Australia. Before the war an annual service was held on Australia Day (January 26) at St. Mildred's, London, but as the church and the Admiral's monument were destroyed in the blitz, it has been decided that henceforward the ceremony shall be held at Bath

On right—AT THE HOME OF ADMIRAL PHILLIP: Mr. J. M. Tulley, the Agent-General for New South Wales, placing a wreath above the memorial plaque at 19, Bennett Street, Bath, where the Admiral lived from 1808 until his death in 1814. The Mayor of Bath, in proposing a toast at the civic luncheon, declared that one great feature of Phillip's career in New South Wales was the splendid way in which he set the pattern, followed ever since in British history, of preserving the just rights of the natives

THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH FLAG FLIES AT THE MASTHEAD OF BATH ABBEY: This picture was taken on Phillip of Australia Day before the arrival of the Mayoral procession. During the morning wreaths were placed on the Abbey's memorial tablet to Admiral Phillip, and the Bishop of Bath and Wells preached at the Abbey service. The Admiral is buried in Bathampton Churchyard, two miles from the centre of Bath, and during the course of the day Mr. Norman Mighell, Deputy High Commissioner for Australia, placed a wreath upon the Admiral's tomb

BUILDING A HOUSE IN RECORD TIME: Men engaged in erecting the shuttering for making the walls of cement and coarse aggregate on the high-speed principle which has been adopted by Wimpeys



THE CHURCH KEEPS PACE WITH HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS: The Bishop of Gloucester carrying his pastoral staff when officiating at the dedication of an Army hut which is to be used as a church on a new housing estate at Cheltenham. The church, known as St. Barnabas', has been organised by the vicar and his congregation, and in due course it will give place to a stone or brick building

CARAVAN TO THE CAPE: Some of the adventurers who are making the long road journey seen as they were about to set out from Euston Road. When they get into warmer weather on the African Continent most of the travellers plan to sleep out under the stars

A PAIR OF HOUSES AFTER THREE-AND-A-HALF DAYS: An example of high-speed building, showing how the walls are built in one piece, the cement and coarse aggregate being poured into wooden shuttering and the shuttering being removed after the material has set. Wimpeys are building them on the Uxbridge Council's Hillingdon Estate

HOUSES WHICH HAVE BEEN POURED OUT! Two nearly-completed examples of the new method of house construction which Wimpeys are demonstrating on the Hillingdon Estate, Middlesex, for Uxbridge Rural District Council. The houses, which have the approval of the Ministry of Health, are not only produced at high speed, but they are also economical in materials. The mixture of cement and coarse aggregate is poured into the shuttering, and within three-and-a-half days all is ready for the addition of the roof and the interior fittings. As soon as the shuttering is taken down, it is re-erected on the next site and in a matter of hours pouring can re-commence. The makers affirm that walls made of this material give very much improved insulation. The finished houses are wholly formal in appearance, having tiled roofs and stucco fronts

THE GREAT TREK, 1946 VERSION—LONDON TO CAPETOWN BY ROAD: This party of adventurers gathered last week in the Euston Road before leaving for South Africa. They are to make the trip by road, in their converted Army lorries, and they have planned the journey as they are tired of waiting for passages by sea. The journey by road is 10,900 miles, and whether they go by the Sahara or the Sudan they will have a large area of desert to cross before they reach the metalled roads of Rhodesia and the Congo

RELICS OF THE ROMAN OCCUPATION OF LONDON: A pipe-clay figurine (*left*), a figurine of Hercules (*centre*) and a figurine of Minerva (*right*) on view in the Guildhall Museum, which is once again placing some of its treasures on public view. These little figures were fairly common in Roman Britain, and they seem to have maintained their popularity throughout the years of the occupation. They frequently get turned up during the digging of house foundations, and it is possible that some may be found during the present excavations on the blitzed sites. The Guildhall Museum is taking an active interest in these excavations which are providing much new material regarding the topography of Roman London

LONDON'S OWN TREASURES OF ANTIQUITY

In the Newly Reopened Guildhall Museum

With each succeeding month comes further news of the opening-up of London's museums after the long interruption of the war years, and the latest of these is the not widely known but interesting Guildhall Museum, essentially the treasure house of the antiquities of the City of London. The entrance to the museum is in Basinghall Street, away to the east of the familiar entrance to Guildhall, and to-day the visitor will find only a few of the treasures available for view. What there are are of tremendous interest, however, and they range from relics of the Roman era to nineteenth-century documents, such as the Marriage Certificate of Shelley and his second wife, Mary Godwin.

During the war most of these treasures were sent to safe places in the country, but others were stored in the Guildhall Crypt, and fortunately escaped the bombing which wrought such havoc in the historic building.

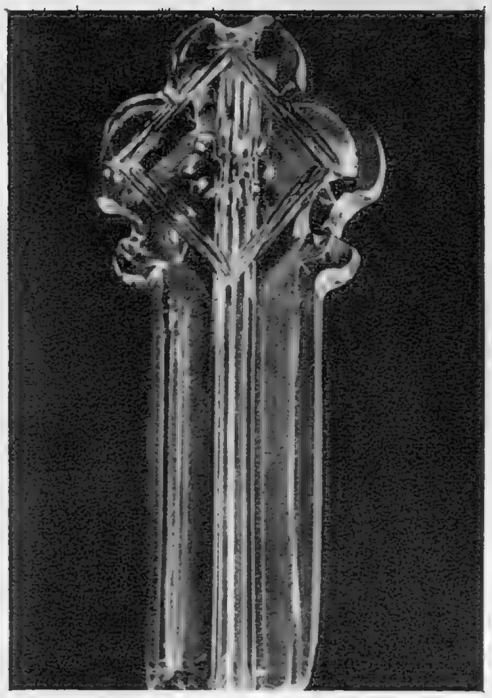
Among the manuscripts at the Guildhall Museum the most important is undoubtedly the fifteenth-century mass book of St. Botolph's, Aldersgate. This is of special value in that it is the only mass book of a City church that is still extant.

MEMORIALS OF THE PILGRIM PERIOD IN LONDON'S HISTORY: These badges, which date from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, were worn by Londoners as evidence that they had undertaken pilgrimages to particular shrines. The badge in the centre at the top represents St. Thomas of Canterbury, and was very popular in the Middle Ages. Flanking it are the badge of the Annunciation and of St. Erasmus, who is seen with arm raised in the act of pronouncing his blessing. Below are two moulds used for casting pilgrims' badges

THE GUILDHALL MUSEUM IS RICH IN ECCLESIASTICAL SILVER: This cup, which comes from Allhallows, Honey Lane, dates from the year 1568, the date being inscribed on the centre of the lid. The inscription round the cup and round the outside of the lid are cleverly integrated into the pattern

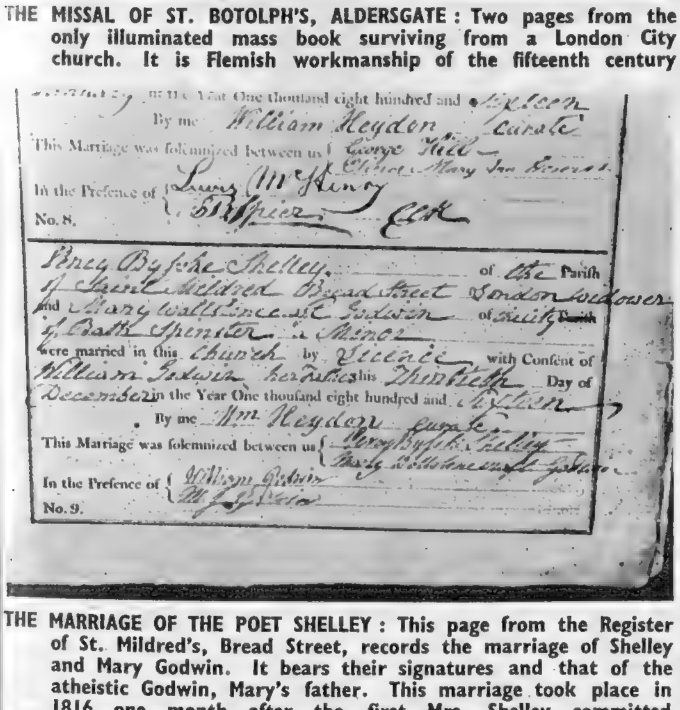
A FRAGMENTARY GEM OF WALRUS IVORY : This relic, dating back to the twelfth century, was found in Worship Street. It is perhaps the finest piece of English ivory of its time, and the treatment of the folds of the dress is particularly notable

THE HEAD FOR A BEADLE'S STAFF : This gracefully designed piece of silverware came to the Guildhall Museum from the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury



A CRYSTAL CRUCIFIX OF THE YEAR 1600 : This came from the famous Friday Street hoard, much of which went to the London Museum. It was only fitting that the Guildhall should have at least one example of the treasure, as it is so essentially the museum representing the City's antiquities

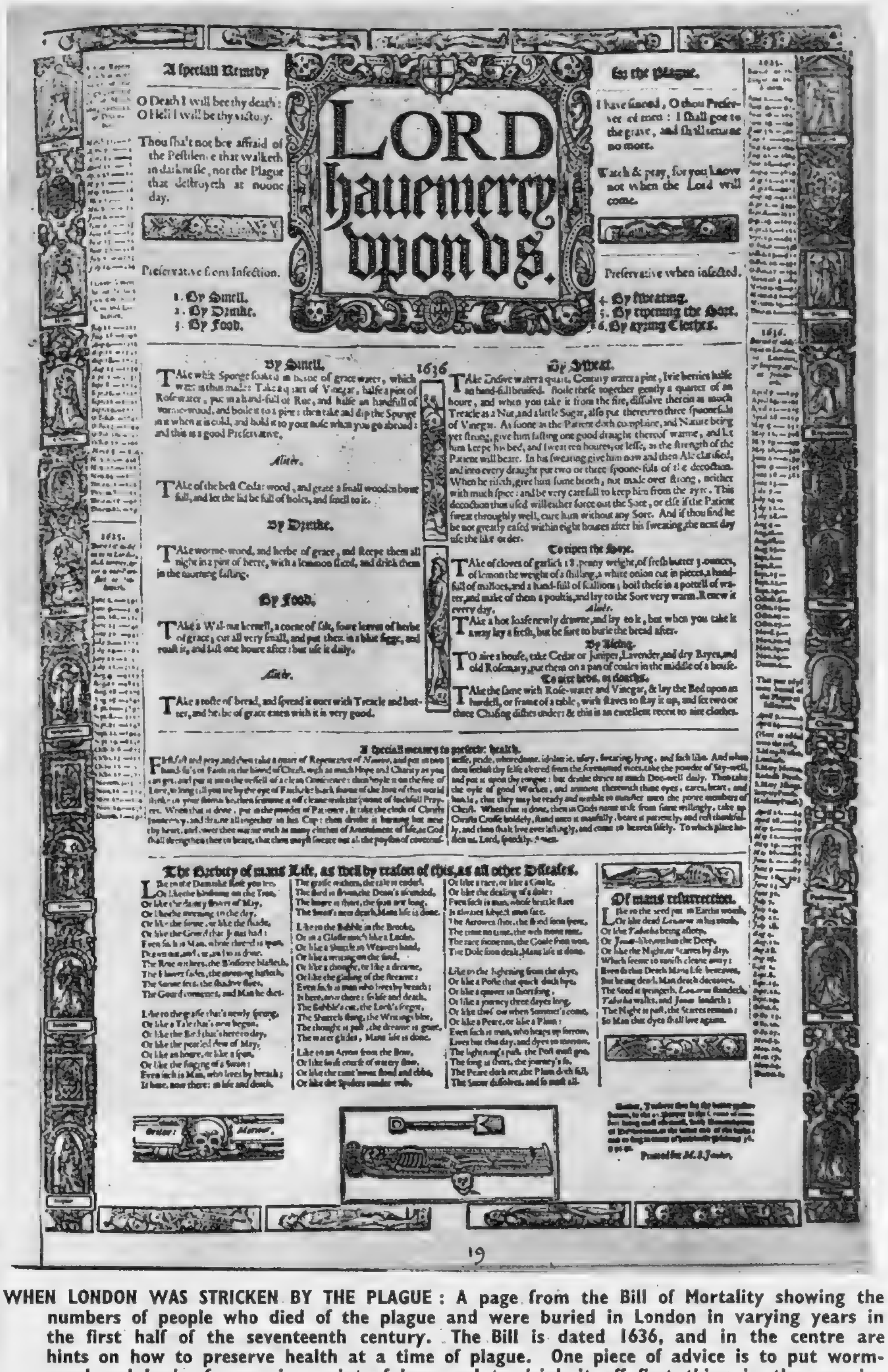
THE MISSAL OF ST. BOTOLPH'S, ALDERSGATE : Two pages from the only illuminated mass book surviving from a London City church. It is Flemish workmanship of the fifteenth century



[illegible] in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Sixteen
By me William Heydon Curate
This Marriage was solemnized between us { George Hill / [illegible] Mary [illegible]
In the Presence of { Lewis McHenry / [illegible] Spicer Clk
No. 8.

Percy Bysshe Shelley of the Parish of Saint Mildred Bread Street London Widower and Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin of the City of Bath Spinster a Minor were married in this Church by Licence with Consent of William Godwin her Father this Thirtieth Day of December in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Sixteen
By me Wm Heydon Curate
This Marriage was solemnized between us { Percy Bysshe Shelley / Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin
In the Presence of { William Godwin / [illegible]
No. 9.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE POET SHELLEY : This page from the Register of St. Mildred's, Bread Street, records the marriage of Shelley and Mary Godwin. It bears their signatures and that of the atheistic Godwin, Mary's father. This marriage took place in 1816 one month after the first Mrs. Shelley committed suicide, but two years after Shelley's first meeting with Mary



A speciall Remedy for the Plague.

LORD haue mercy vpon vs.

O Death I will bee thy death: O Hell I will be thy victory.

Thou shalt not bee affraid of the Pestilence that walketh in darknesse, nor the Plague that destroyeth at noone day.

I have fained, O thou Preserver of men: I shall goe to the grave, and shall returne no more.

Watch & pray, for you know not when the Lord will come.

Preservative from Infection.
1. By Smell.
2. By Drinke.
3. By Food.

Preservative when infected.
4. By sweating.
5. By ripening the Sore.
6. By ayring Clothes.

1636

By Smell.
TAke white Spunge soaked in a bottle of grace water, which water is thus made: Take a quart of Vinegar, halfe a pint of Rosewater, put in a hand-full of Rue, and halfe an handfull of worme-wood, and boile it to a pint: then take and dip the Spunge in it when it is cold, and hold it to your nose when you go abroad: and this is a good Preservative.

Aliter.
TAke of the best Cedar wood, and grate a small wooden boxe full, and let the lid be full of holes, and smell to it.

By Drinke.
TAke worme-wood, and herbe of grace, and steepe them all night in a pint of beere, with a lemmon sliced, and drink them in the morning fasting.

By Food.
TAke a Wal-nut kernell, a corne of salt, foure leaves of herbe of grace, cut all very small, and put them in a blue figge, and roast it, and last one houre after: but use it daily.

Aliter.
TAke a toste of bread, and spread it over with Treacle and butter, and herbe of grace eaten with it is very good.

By Sweat.
TAke Endive water a quart, Century water a pint, Ivie berries halfe an hand-full bruised. Boile these together gently a quarter of an houre, and when you take it from the fire, dissolve therein as much Treacle as a Nut, and a little Sugar, also put thereunto three spoonfuls of Vinegar. As soone as the Patient doth complaine, and Nature being yet strong, give him fasting one good draught thereof warme, and let him keepe his bed, and sweat ten houres, or lesse, as the strength of the Patient will beare. In his sweating give him now and then Ale clarified, and into every draught put two or three spoone-fuls of the decoction. When he riseth, give him some broth, not made over strong, neither with much spice: and be very carefull to keep him from the ayre. This decoction thus used will either force out the Sore, or else if the Patient sweat throughly well, cure him without any Sore. And if thou find he be not greatly eased within eight houres after his sweating, the next day use the like order.

To ripen the Sore.
TAke of cloves of garlick 18. penny weight, of fresh butter 3. ounces, of lemon the weight of a shilling, a white onion cut in pieces, a hand-full of mallows, and a hand-full of scallions; boil these in a pottell of water, and make of them a poultis, and lay to the Sore very warm. Renew it every day.

Aliter.
TAke a hot loafe newly drawne, and lay to it, but when you take it away lay a fresh, but be sure to burie the bread after.

By Airing.
TO aire a house, take Cedar or Juniper, Lavender, and dry Bayes, and old Rosemary, put them on a pan of coales in the middle of a house.

To aire beds, or clothes.
TAke the same with Rose-water and Vinegar, & lay the Bed upon an hurdell, or frame of a table, with staves to stay it up, and set two or three Chafing dishes under: & this is an excellent receit to aire clothes.

A speciall meanes to preserve health.
FIrst fast and pray, and then take a quart of Repentance of Ninevie, and put in two hand-fuls of Faith in the blood of Christ, with as much Hope and Charity as you can get, and put it into the vessell of a clean Conscience: then boyle it on the fire of Love, so long till you see by the eye of Faith the black some of the love of this world [illegible] ... take the powder of Patience, & take the cloth of Christs innocency, and straine all together in his Cup: then drinke it burning hot next thy heart, and cover thee warme with as many clothes of Amendment of life, as God shall strengthen thee to beare, that thou maist sweate out all the poyson of covetousnesse, pride, whoredome, idolatrie, usury, swearing, lying, and such like. And when thou feelest thy selfe altered from the forenamed vices, take the powder of Say-well, and put it upon thy tongue: but drinke thrice as much Doo-well daily. Then take the oyle of good Workes, and annoint therewith thine eyes, eares, heart, and hands, that they may be ready and nimble to minister unto the poore members of Christ. When that is done, then in Gods name arise from sinne willingly, take up Christs Crosse boldly, stand unto it manfully, beare it patiently, and rest thankfully, and thou shalt live everlastingly, and come to heaven safely. To which place helpe us, Lord, speedily. Amen.

The Brevity of mans Life, as well by reason of this, as all other Diseases.

Of mans resurrection.

Printed for M. S. Ienkes.

19

WHEN LONDON WAS STRICKEN BY THE PLAGUE : A page from the Bill of Mortality showing the numbers of people who died of the plague and were buried in London in varying years in the first half of the seventeenth century. The Bill is dated 1636, and in the centre are hints on how to preserve health at a time of plague. One piece of advice is to put wormwood and herb of grace in a pint of beer and to drink it off first thing in the morning

THE THEATRE GOES ON BOOMING

By CHARLES GRAVES

KENTISH VILLAGERS TAKE PART IN FILM: Lydd as it was forty years ago. Ealing Studios went to the little village of Lydd, in Kent, for the outdoor shots of their new film, *The Loves of Joanna Godden*. It is set in 1905, and costumes of the period were worn by the villagers who acted as extras and who are here seen in the village street, making their way towards the fair ground. It is noteworthy that British film producers are not now working on studio sets when, as here, they can use the natural resources of the country

"GREAT STRENGTH RINGS THE BELL": Google Withers, dressed in the fashion of 1905, joins strenuously in the fair scene from the new film

THE theatre is still booming in Great Britain although the war has been over eighteen months, whereas a severe slump had already set in at the same period after World War I. The reason is not far to seek. Practically every restriction was removed by the Lloyd George Government in 1919. The present Socialist Government's austerity vendetta has resulted in a situation in which almost the only thing that one can buy is leisure. This accounts for the fantastic crowds and betting at dog-races, at football matches, and on the race-courses. The competition of dog-racing and the competition of Hollywood did not exist in 1920. Nevertheless, fortunes were lost in the theatre.

To-day, with the competition not only of Hollywood, but also of Denham, Pinewood and all the other leading studios, the theatres are full, up and down the country. People go and see *Is Your Honeymoon Really Necessary?* again and again because they have nothing better to do with their money. This farce has been running since the blitz. It is no reflection on the playwright or the cast, but the fact remains that but for restrictions it is inconceivable that the show would still be on the boards. Similarly, who would suppose that a revival like that of *Lady Windermere's Fan* should go on running month after month? There are several other plays and shows in the same category. But this is not necessarily a good thing. A number of excellent plays have no chance of getting into the West End theatre because of the almost unhealthily long runs of the present shows. At the same time, it is not desirable for young actors and actresses to remain continuously in one play, where they are liable to get stale and to be forgotten by the public, the critics and other theatre managements.

Among the future stars that one can detect, however, are Michael Gough in *But for the Grace of God*, whom Frederick Lonsdale is credited as having claimed to be the best young character actor in the country. There is Eileen Herlie, who made her name overnight in *The Eagle Has Two Heads*, at the Lyric, Hammersmith, and has been offered long contracts to appear in films. There is Daphne Slater, who made that hit in *Sense and Sensibility*; Alec Guinness, whose performance as a fool in *King Lear* is stupendous; and Joan Miller, who, in *Pick-Up Girl*, now transferred to the Casino Theatre, gives one of the best tragic performances since Mrs. Siddons.

True, the stalemate in London's theatres means that provincial audiences are having big opportunities of seeing the new plays, which is all to the good, for instead of four or five weeks "on the road" at big cities like Glasgow and Manchester, these plays are being toured up and down the country.

To revert to the West End, it must not be taken as an insult to the Bard of Avon when I say that only Sir Stafford Cripps's régime could have made it possible for London to have two successful Shakespearean companies performing simultaneously. The Old Vic Company is claimed as marvellous, and yet the theatregoers who remember the standard of acting in the theatre in 1914, or thereabouts, assure me that the Old Vic is no better and no worse than the performances of thirty years ago. Shakespeare has nevertheless ceased to be anti-box-office. Donald Wolfit filled the Winter Garden with Shakespeare, even though he had to harangue the young audience when it laughed at the corpse scene in *King Lear*.

Every night at the New Theatre, Laurence Olivier is cheered, and once again one can see stage-door crowds. Hero-worship is returning to the theatre. For many years this hero-worship was transferred to the movie-stars, largely because their personal appearances in public were few and far between and the audiences only saw them in celluloid. Laurence Olivier has the sense to keep away from the public gaze except when he is on the stage, which makes him very much sought-after.

The present tendency in the theatre is towards romance. Ivor Novello has been serving it up for hundreds of nights with *Perchance to Dream*. Sir A. P. Herbert has followed suit with *Big Ben*. Noel Coward is also going to serve it up—at Drury Lane.

Some experts think that the drop in the quality of Hollywood films is partly responsible for the popularity of the live theatre. Another reason, in addition to the basic one of austerity, is unquestionably the early start of the evening performance, which is between 6.30 to 7 p.m. Forced on the managements by the blitz, this has proved so surprisingly popular that quite possibly we will never return to the days of universal 8.30 p.m. starts. The reason is simple. Women who have to queue up all day for their food and other necessary shopping and who also have to do most of their housework, welcome an evening performance which enables them to get home before ten o'clock and, therefore, to have a good night's sleep before the next gruelling day.

It is, of course, not so popular with people who live in the West End and like to dine before going to the theatre. But such people are very much in the minority, although they can, in fact, be expected to fill the boxes and the orchestra stalls from Row A to H. For each one of them there are forty theatregoers who live in the suburbs. These are the backbone of the audiences and it is they whose tastes need to be suited. Not so long ago there were two plays a night at the Comedy Theatre. The first was a revival, and did very well. The second was a new play, but people stayed away from it because of the late start.

I feel quite sure that the box-office receipts at the Garrick Theatre, where "Bea" Lillie stars with her usual delightful distinction, would be bigger if the show began earlier, and the chances are that 7 p.m. will become stabilised as the general rule for the start of the evening performances in the West End theatres. This gives members of the audience an opportunity to have some kind of snack before watching the show of their choice, even though it is no easy matter to get a late dinner or theatre supper in the West End restaurants. But there again, it is the audiences from the suburbs who are the backbone of the theatre-going public, and they can go home quite comfortably to a cold supper in their own homes. For it is no longer

THE THEATRE DRAWS THE CROWDS: A part of the great queue which waited outside Covent Garden Opera House to book seats for the Gigli performances in November. When booking began over 1,000 people were waiting, and there was almost a riot when queue gate-crashers attempted to get in first. Police had to be called in to restore order. At several other theatres there have been all-night queues, notably for the opening of the Old Vic season at the New, to which Laurence Olivier drew his own crowd of fans

AN ICE RINK ON THE STAGE OF THE STOLL THEATRE: A scene from Tom Arnold's "Ice Revue," in which Cecilia Colledge made her stage début. Cecilia Colledge, one-time Amateur Skating Champion of the World, dances to Mendelssohn's music with her customary brilliance in London's latest skating spectacle. The show includes ballets on ice with a full *corps de ballet*, and its lighter side is well catered for by the trick-skating of Chribi, Wondrous and Joe Whitehouse. Considering the obvious limitations, it is a gay entertainment

a question of transport. The omnibuses and underground railways are running to much later schedules than during the war. And if there is any doubt as to the suggestion that it is the audience from the suburbs on whom the box-offices depend so greatly, it is only necessary to go to a West End restaurant and see the return of the dinner jackets, although in any given theatre they can be counted on the fingers of two hands.

Yes, the reason for the boom in the theatre is certainly due in part to the early starts of the evening performances. One of the reasons why the talkies took so much business away from the theatre was that members of the public could go into a cinema at any time they liked—which was usually at about 7 p.m. In spite of this new-found advantage, the theatre is, nevertheless, living on a species of inflation.

When rationing ceases and anybody can buy silk stockings, there will assuredly be a minor slump. This will not be so great as in 1920 because the public are definitely becoming theatre-conscious. They read more about it and take more interest in it. The despised E.N.S.A. is partly responsible. C.E.M.A. also helped a great deal. All over the country there are village and town groups of enthusiastic amateur actors and actresses preparing plays for the winter season. All of them go, whenever possible, to see a new play as much to study the technique of the acting as to enjoy the entertainment.

For the time being television is confined to an area of 30 miles round London, but within a year it should be extended to Birmingham and later on to various big cities throughout the country. What effect that will have on the live theatre remains to be seen. . . . In my opinion, however, television affords the best possible "trailer" to a live show. After all, it is more a picture than an actual performance.

In any event, it has been the experience of touring companies that, as in the case of *The Dancing Years*, more money is taken at the box-office on the return visit than on the first time. But it is a pity that a battle is still in progress between the B.B.C. and theatre managements. The same thing happened when radio was first introduced. Theatrical managements banned all their artistes from performing on the air. This soon came to an end when it was discovered that a dying show could be resuscitated by a single performance on the air.

The whole situation has been a long series of misunderstandings. To begin with, the television department of the B.B.C. was somewhat tactless in going straight to actors and actresses, soliciting their services, instead of approaching the managements employing them.

As time goes on, however, I prophesy that theatrical managements will start applying to the B.B.C. to be televised instead of the other way round. The effect television will have on the performance is another matter. . . . It is quite possible that if the public can see plays televised, they will be surfeited with similar "pictures" at the cinema.

The theatre, therefore, can be expected to benefit from television in a big way, just at the time when it will need some compensation for the reduction of those restrictions which are responsible for the present boom.

***On right*—AUSTRALIAN YOUTH AND BEAUTY: A location shot of Helen Grieve and Daphne Campbell, taken during the filming of "The Overlanders."** In the early part of 1942, when a landing by the Japanese in the North-West of Australia was a probability, the Government of Western Australia faced a crisis. Thousands of head of cattle must be denied to the invaders. With characteristic enterprise and energy, they at once embarked on the colossal task of driving the cattle south, clear of the danger area. Harry Watt, English film producer, made this great trek the subject of his film *The Overlanders*. Losses of cattle and of drovers' horses were high, and a magnificent, dramatic film has been made out of it against the background of the beautiful, though often unsympathetic, Australian landscape

The World of Books—By Vernon Fane

FRANK SWINNERTON AND THE OLD GUARD

The Accomplished Novels are Still Flowing from the Practised Hands of Veteran Writers: The Authentic Story of the Pilgrim Fathers

I HAD occasion this summer to read a certain number of new French books, some of them novels, and some of them memoirs or philosophical treatises, and at the end of the month which I devoted to this study, I came to the conclusion, discouraging to a Francophile like myself, that with a very, very few exceptions the best things were still being written by the Old Guard. They had more technical proficiency, a thing not to be dismissed lightly, more authority in their writing and, generally speaking, more ability to tell a good story.

That situation doesn't apply as arbitrarily to the English scene in writing, but I was reminded of it this week when I was reading Mr. Frank Swinnerton's new novel. Here is a writer whose first book was published about thirty years ago and who is still producing immensely readable, well-told tales for the enjoyment of what may well be another generation. In other words, he is a man who has learned his craft in the same way as any successful technician must, and who recognises that an essential part of the business of being a novelist is to be a story-teller.

ENGLISH MAIDEN (Hutchinson. 10s. 6d.) is, then, a good story. It is also something of a special feat, since the author manages to invest his heroine with almost every good quality without making her appear priggish. It is the tale of Sally Carter, born some seventy years ago in the little village of Shaffle. Sally's childhood is happy, and both her mother and her father, who is a carpenter, bring her up with a determination that, as well as her natural beauty, she shall have kindliness and courage.

Sally goes as scullery maid to the "big house" of the village, is promoted to being lady's maid to a neurotic mistress, and finally is wooed by Victor, the young son and heir, who not only marries her in the end but remains faithful and devoted. The story is not one of incident so much as of character — Sally's character. For when Victor's amateur publishing business runs into serious debt and he has a protective nervous breakdown, it is Sally who, with charm, modesty and will-power taking the place of a more classic education, sets the business on its feet again.

When Victor recovers he forgives Sally for humiliating him by being so independent, and her tact is even equal to that difficult acceptance. In the end, and again owing to Sally, they live happily ever afterwards, and Mr. Swinnerton has even managed to remove the saccharine implication from that state of affairs.

And that is just what I mean about the veterans doing their job so well.

THE LIBRARY OF THE "QUEEN ELIZABETH": There are 4,000 books for first-class passengers, travel, biography, modern fiction and classics judiciously blended. So fast does the "Queen Elizabeth" make the Atlantic crossing, and so numerous are the distractions of the voyage, that it is doubtful if many of the books that are taken out are read to the last page

An American classical professor, historian and former Rhodes scholar, Mr. George F. Willison, spent nine years of meticulous research and expert writing on the production of SAINTS AND STRANGERS (Heinemann. 15s.). At a leisurely pace and in precise detail he unfolds the authentic story of the Pilgrim Fathers. He examines all the legends concerning them and throws them overboard.

Very little was thought of the Founding Fathers until the Victorians rescued them from their obscurity and conjured up pictures of solemn, drab and uncomfortably moral people. Mr. Willison has rescued them from the Victorians and shows them as lusty, colourful characters of immense vitality. Even their appearance was not as drab as the picture books would have it.

Mr. Willison begins the story in England with an account of the religious differences which led to exile in Holland, and then to the adventure to America. There follows their troubled voyage and their immense difficulties when they landed.

English readers will be particularly entertained by the chapter which recounts and compares what really happened and what is popularly believed to have happened. They will note the agility which the American historians displayed in trimming their sails as, little by little, their cherished beliefs about the Founding Fathers have been dispelled. Not only is this a scholarly book, but an extremely readable and entertaining one as well.

DEATH AND THE PLEASANT VOICES (Michael Joseph. 9s. 6d.) is an odd kind of crime story and rather a good one, in spite of weaknesses which are frequently obvious in the construction. Miss Mary Fitt writes about a strange house somewhere in the English countryside, in which is staying an even stranger house-party. A young medical student called Jake is stranded on a nearby road when his motor-car breaks down during a blinding thunderstorm. He stumbles into the house partly for shelter, partly to ask if he may use the telephone, and finds himself received as an expected but not necessarily welcome guest.

This greeting arouses Jake's curiosity and he determines to stay on and see what it is all about. He is only slightly daunted when he discovers successively that it is all about murder, impersonation, jealousy, greed, love and a number of other uncomfortable passions. He remains in the house till what is, for him, not the bitter, but the disillusioned end, and he plays a part blissfully far removed from that of the conventional amateur sleuth.

Miss Mary Fitt has created a suitably gloomy and sinister atmosphere for her setting, and has then chosen, with a nice feeling for oddities, a group of characters who achieve some originality without ever being whimsical. She is to be congratulated on this, and on the ingenious twists which very nearly make up for an occasional ineptitude.

For those who enjoy family sagas there is THE WESTERING SUN (Collins. 10s. 6d.), which is the continuation of the story of that Oliphant family which Mr. George Blake began in *The Constant Star*. It seems to be Mr. Blake's mission to tell us not only the story of the Oliphants but the history of the Clyde, and this he does with a good deal more colour and interest than any guide-book.

In his own particular *metier*, in fact, there are not many writers who compare with him, for he weaves the story of the river into the domestic affairs of a typical Clydeside family and makes every incident, however prosaic, into a real and moving piece of life. In the main, the characterisation that this author achieves is excellent, but it is at times difficult to believe that all the males of the Oliphant clan could have had such repulsive personalities.

This book, which takes the reader from 1870 up to 1941, reveals the Oliphants as an odd family, to say the least of it. Rich with a big shipping fortune, didactic and self-opinionated, 1914 found the men of the family ready to do anything except fight, though the women, both then and in the more recent war, behaved with remarkable courage.

But whatever one's feelings about the lack of integrity in the principal characters, there is no doubt that this is something more than a long and readable novel: it is a genuinely moving chronicle.

COWARDS AND BRAVE MEN (Macdonald. 8s. 6d.) is one of those challenging and provocative titles that practically dare the reader to open and discuss a book, and Mr. John Milling's tale of India, of British Intelligence officers and Indian princes is well worth that initial move.

Major Derek Drysdale is the Intelligence officer in question, working in the state of Ralpur, where the Nawab is friendly to the British. His son, however, Prince Hiram Ali Salm, is a very different proposition, having been educated in Europe, where he absorbed enough of the Fascist doctrines to return to his country with his car covered with swastikas, and his head filled with the matching ideology.

It is a crowded book, and the author's knowledge of British India is probably greatly superior to his skill as a novelist, but the merits of the novel are genuine.

SHORTER REVIEWS: A Selection from the Publishers' Lists

A FASCINATING book with a curious title is GREAT SOLDIERS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR (Robert Hale. 15s.), by Major H. A. De Weerd. The title seems normal enough until the reader reaches page 116 and finds the name of Hitler listed among the immortals, in common with Wavell, Montgomery and the American architects of victory Eisenhower and MacArthur. That the Führer ruled the Wehrmacht is beyond question, but that the man who ordained the Stalingrad disaster should be called a great soldier will be unacceptable to most military historians. For the rest, the book is most knowledgeably written, and Major De Weerd's assessment of General MacArthur may lead many to a greater appreciation of this man who has "survived almost fatal gifts of personal charm."

NETHERLANDS AMERICA (Robert Hale. 18s.), by Philip Hanson Hiss, is an illustrated geographical and historical survey of the Dutch territories in the West, throwing much new light on the Caribbean area, which the rise of air power has made so vitally important.

ENGLISH WINES AND CORDIALS (Gramol Publications Ltd. 6s.) is the latest treatise by André Simon, the wine expert. He tells us how to make many old favourites, such as blackberry wine and cowslip wine, and introduces us to the mysteries of Hippocras, Heart's-Ease, Brunswick Mum, Negus, Mead and Metheglin.

THE NATIVE ECONOMIES OF NIGERIA (Faber and Faber. 25s.) is an elaborate account of conditions in the colony compiled by a strong team of research workers. A second volume on Nigerian mining is to follow shortly.

RUGGER, DO IT THIS WAY (John Murray. 5s.) has been compiled by Mark Sugden and Gerry Hollis, two notable exponents of the game, and they illustrate their ideas with photographs by John Barlee.

MEN, MEDICINE AND MYSELF (Museum Press. 12s. 6d.), by S. Vere Pearson, is the autobiography of a man who has devoted a full life to the welfare and interests of his fellow men and women. His account of the progress of tuberculosis research will prove of immense interest to doctor and layman alike.

MODEL SHIPS AND HOW TO MAKE THEM (Faber and Faber. 12s. 6d.) is a book for winter study, which will no doubt be widely welcomed by amateur carpenters. The author, H. Seymour, provides measured drawings and plans in conjunction with his text.

THE SHOES MEN WALK IN (Pilot Press. 8s. 6d.). A writer, who has lived and worked in many lands, writes stories about men and women he met in Hungary, Holland, Germany, Palestine and Spain. HALFWAY DOWN THE CLIFF (E.P.L. 6s.) is another book of short stories, in which Diana Gardner reveals a flare for satire.

THE SILENT REVOLUTION (Falcon Press. 1s.) is one of the new Forum Books. The author, Peter Baker, wrote this political philosophy in a prisoner-of-war camp.

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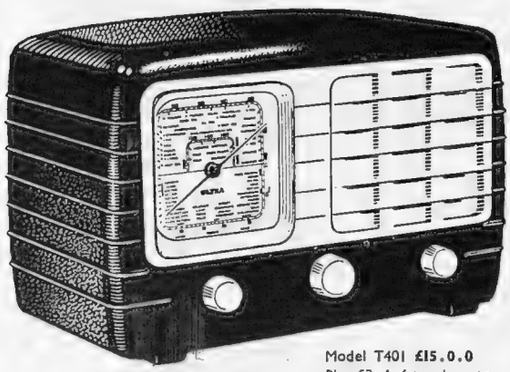

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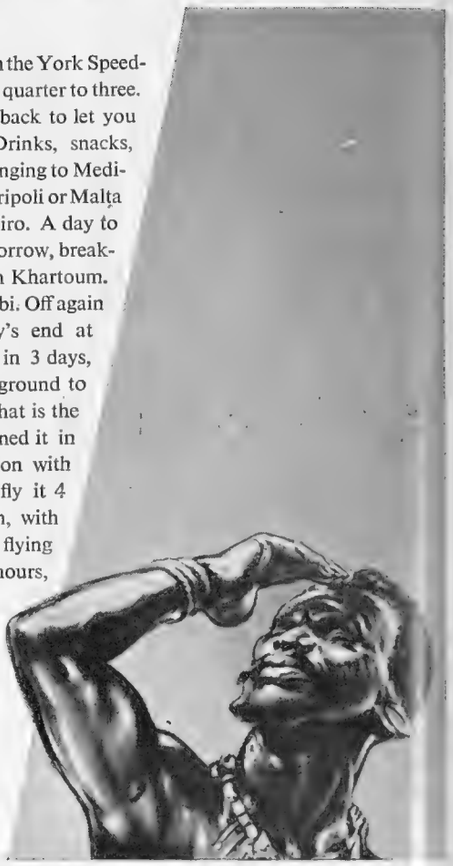

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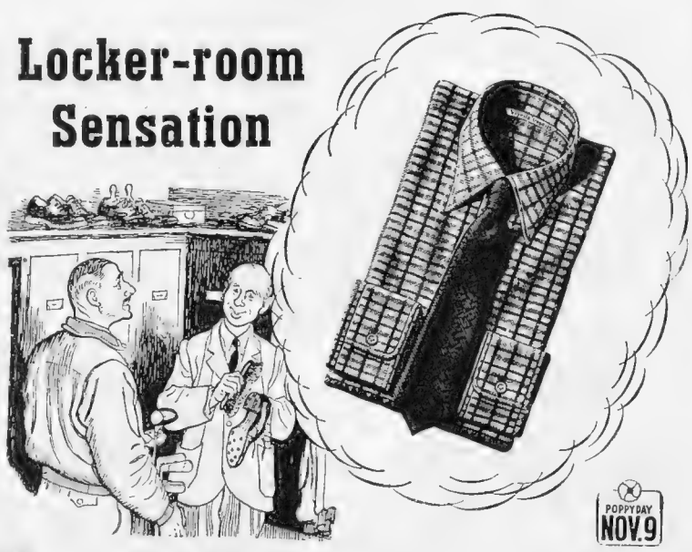

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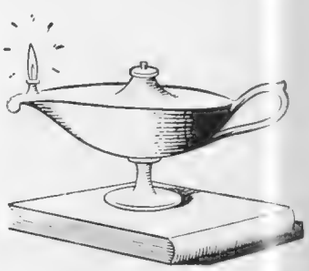

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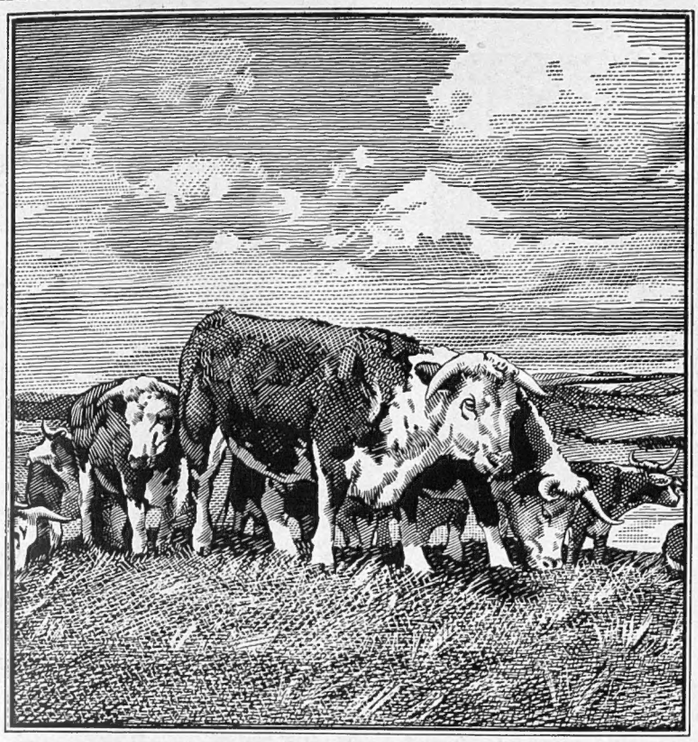

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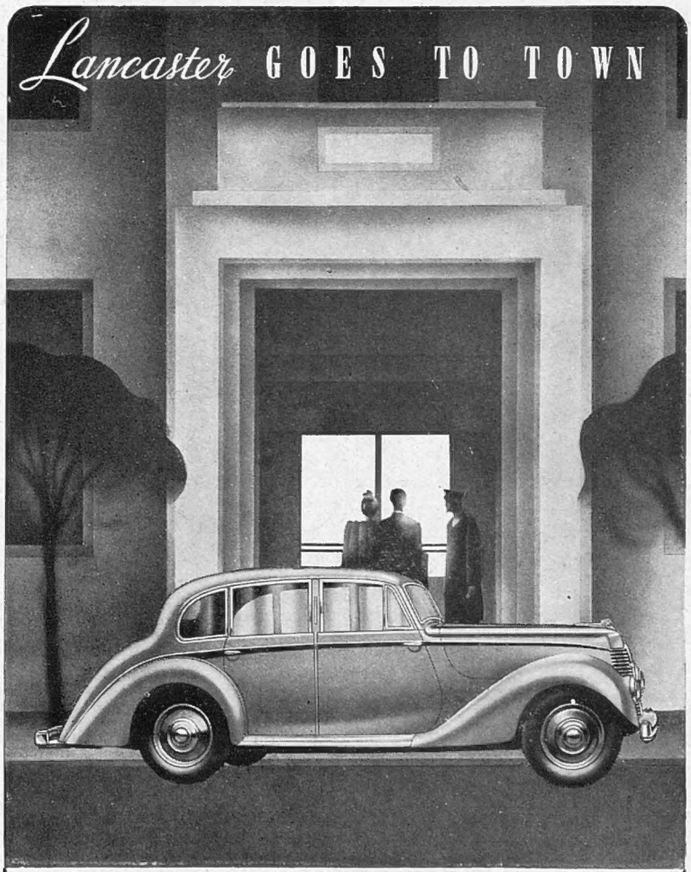

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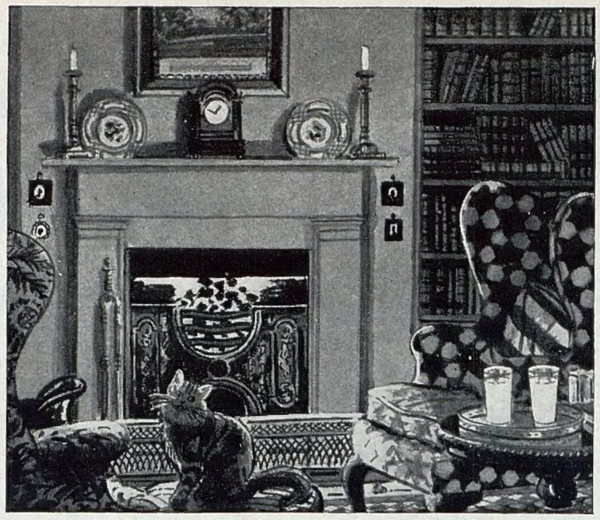

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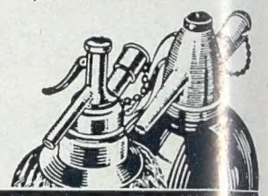

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JOSÉ RAMIREZ SHERRY

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IN QUEST OF GOOD HOTELS

ADVICE BY ASHLEY COURTENAY

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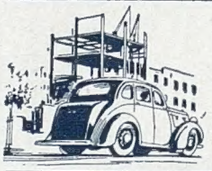

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